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OF

ANIMALS, VEGETABLES, and MINERALS.

Together with

Their Properties, and various Uses in MEDICINE,
MECHANICS, MANUFACTURES, &c.

Illustrated

With a great Variety of COPPER-PLATES, accurately
drawn from Nature, and beautifully engraved.

By the Rev. SAMUEL WARD,
Vicar of Cotterstock, cum Glapthorne, Northamp-
tonshire; and others.

V O L. VIII.

*The great Creator did not bestow so much Curiosity and
Workmanship upon his Creatures to be looked upon with a
careless incurious Eye.*

Derham's Phys. Theol. Book xi.

L O N D O N :

Printed for F. NEWBERRY, the Corner of St. Paul's
Church-yard, Ludgate-street. 1776.



T H E
N A T U R A L H I S T O R Y
O F
B I R D S ;
O R,
A C O M P L E T E S Y S T E M
O F
O R N I T H O L O G Y .

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OF WATER-FOWL IN GENERAL.

THE first great distinction of water-fowl appears in the toes, which are webbed together for swimming. Those who have observed the feet or toes of a duck, will easily conceive how admirably they are formed for moving in the water. Men, when they swim, do not open the fingers, so as to let the fluid pass through them ; but closing them together, present one broad surface to beat back the water, and

6 Of WATER-FOWL in general.

thus push their bodies along. What man performs by art, nature has supplied to water-fowl; and has webbed their toes together, so that they expand two broad oars to the water; and thus, moving them alternately, with the greatest ease, paddle along. We must observe also, that the toes are so contrived, that as they strike backward, their broadest hollow surface beats the water; but as they gather them in again, for a second blow, their front surface contracts, and does not impede the bird's progressive motion.

Their toes are not only webbed in the most convenient manner, but their legs are also fitted for swift progression in the water. The legs of all are short, except the flamingo, the avosetta, and the corirra: all which, for that reason, I have ranked among the crane kind, as they make little use of their toes in swimming. Except these, all web-footed birds have very short legs; and these strike while they swim with greater facility. Were the leg long, it would act like a lever whose prop is placed to a disadvantage; its motions would be slow, and the labour of moving it considerable. For this reason,

Of WATER-FOWL in general. 7

reason, the very few birds whose webbed feet are long, never make use of them in swimming; the web at the bottom seems only of service as a broad base, to prevent them from sinking while they walk in the mud; but it otherwise rather retards than advances their motion.

In the web-footed kinds, the shortness of their legs renders them as unfit for walking upon land, as it qualifies them for swimming in their natural element. Their stay, therefore, upon land, is but short and transitory; and they seldom breed far from the sides of those waters where they usually remain. In their breeding seasons, their young are brought up by the water-side; and they are covered with a warm down, to fit them for the coldness of their situation. The old ones also have a closer, warmer plumage, than birds of any other class. Our beds are composed of their feathers; as they neither mat nor imbibe humidity, but are furnished with an animal oil, that glazes their surface, and keeps each separate. In some, however, this animal oil is in too great abundance; and is as offensive from its smell, as it is serviceable for the purposes
of

B *Of WATER-FOWL in general,*

of household œconomy. The feathers, therefore, of all the penguin kind, are totally useless for domestic purposes; as neither boiling nor bleaching can divest them of their oily rancidity. Indeed, the rancidity of all new feathers, of whatever water-fowl they be, is so disgusting, that our upholsterers give near double the price for old feathers that they afford for new.

The skin of water-fowl is also generally lined with fat; so that, with the warmth of the feathers externally, and this natural lining more internally, they are better defended against the changes or the inclemencies of the weather, than any other class whatever.

As, among land-birds, so also among these, there are tribes of plunderers, that prey not only upon fish, but sometimes upon water-fowl themselves. There are likewise more inoffensive tribes, that live upon insects and vegetables only. Some water-fowls subsist by making sudden stoops from above, to seize whatever fish come near the surface; others again, not furnished with wings long enough to fit them
for

Of WATER-FOWL in general. 9

for flight, take their prey by diving after it.

All water-fowl naturally fall into three distinctions. Those of the gull-kind, that, with long legs and round bills, fly along the surface to seize their prey. Those of the penguin-kind, that, with round bills, legs hid in the abdomen, and short wings, dive after their prey : and, thirdly, those of the goose-kind, with flat broad bills, that lead harmless lives, and chiefly subsist upon vegetables and insects.

The gull-kind are active and rapacious ; constantly, except when they breed, keeping upon the wing ; fitted for a life of rapine, with sharp straight bills for piercing, or hooked at the end for holding their fishy-prey. In this class we may rank the albatross, the cormorant, the gannet or Soland-geese, the shag, the frigate-bird, the great brown gull, and all the lesser tribe of gulls and sea-swallows.

The penguin kind, with appetites as voracious, bills as sharp, and equally eager for prey, are yet unqualified to obtain it by flight. Their wings are short, and their bodies large and heavy, so that they can neither run nor fly.
But

But they are formed for diving in a very peculiar manner. To this class we may refer the penguin, the auk, the skout, the sea-turtle, the bottle-nose, and the loon.

The goose-kind are easily distinguishable, by their flat broad bills, covered with a skin; and their manner of feeding, which is chiefly upon vegetables. In this class we may place the swan, the goose, the duck, the teal, the widgeon, and all their numerous varieties.

THE PELICAN.

MANY writers, lovers of the marvellous, have related strange things of this bird, which have been credulously received by others, and drawn into example; especially the tales they have told respecting the bird's remarkable regard for its young. Separate from fable, there is sufficient in the pelican to attract our most serious notice, and to claim our best reflections.

The beak of the pelican is peculiar and uncommon; as we shall soon shew: for the rest, it is in almost all respects like a swan; the body is as large, the neck is nearly as long; the legs are as

short as in that bird, and the feet are black, very broad, and webbed in the same manner. The bird is also throughout of a whitish colour, though not of the pure white of the swan, except that the tips of some of the feathers near the beak and wings are black. The bird is so bulky and unwieldy, that it is fit only for the waters, though its feet being not placed so backward as in the swan, and some others, it walks better. Its note is very loud and strange for a bird: its voice, say some, resembles the braying of an ass; while others rejoin, that there requires some fancy to make out the resemblance. Bochart remarks, that as the Psalmist in Psal. cii. 6. compares himself to two birds, with respect to his moaning and lamentation, there must be something querulous and lamentable in the notes of these birds: and the pelican, adds this great man, is a bird of horrid voice, which very much resembles the lamentation of a man grievously complaining*.

“By reason of the voice of my groaning—my bones, &c.—I am like a pelican of the wilderness: I am like an owl of the desert.”

* Bochart Microzoicon, Par. ii. p. 295.

The beak of the pelican is very large and long : it is above a foot in length, and of the thickness of a child's arm at the bottom : the colour is bluish and yellowish, and the point is very sharp. The upper chap of it is formed, as in all other birds ; but the lower is unlike every thing in nature : it is not composed of one solid piece, as in all other birds ; but is made of two long and flat ribs, with a tough membrane connected to one and to the other : this is also extended to the throat, and is not tight, but very broad and loose, so that it can contain a vast quantity of any kind of provision.

The bird frequents the waters both fresh and salt, and feeds voraciously on fishes and water insects : but though it frequents those places, its favourite residence is in remote uncultivated forests and wildernesses, where it can remain quite undisturbed : its wings are long, and it easily flies backward and forward. In these places it builds, and there it breeds up its young, so that the pelican of the wilderness or desert, is no improper phrase : though some small dabblers in natural knowledge have thought so, and on that account objected

objected to the sacred Scriptures. Now the pelican is to carry food for a numerous brood, as ravenous as herself, to these remote places : and this vast bag which nature hath given her at the throat, is the contrivance for the carrying of it. Who can refuse to see in this the wisdom and goodness of the all-wise Creator ! In this bag she stores what she has caught, and flying away to the distant place of her residence this anxious and laborious parent feeds her young from that repository. If some person in early time, quite unacquainted with the history of the bird, saw her alight in the midst of a desert, among a brood of ravenous young ones, and feed them from this bag, it would not be unnatural for him to suppose, however strange the thing must be in itself, that it was with her own blood she fed them. Thus arose, from a mistake, the story of this wonder, which faithful ignorance has propagated through so many ages ; and which moralists and poets have from the earliest times drawn into an emblem of paternal affection. Though certainly, without any reference to things false and marvellous, there is sufficient instruction for parents,

C

from

from the labour, diligence, and amazing storge which God hath planted in this pelican of the wilderness !

In the year 1745, there was a pelican shewn in London, brought by captain Pelly from the Cape of Good Hope, where they are larger than any where else ; and of which I find the following account in Edwards's History of Birds. " From the point of the bill to the angle of the mouth is twenty inches of our English measure, which is six inches more than any natural historian has found it : the academy of Paris having measured one which was about fourteen inches, Paris measure I suppose ; and our countryman Willoughby measured one, brought from Russia, which he makes fourteen inches English. I thought it something incredible in Willoughby's description, that a man should put his head into the pouch under the bill ; till I saw it performed in this bird by its keeper, and am sure a second man's head might have been put in with it at the same time." He also observes, that the skin round the eye is bare of feathers, and the pouch, when dry, appears of the consistence and colour of a blown dry ox's bladder, having fibres

fibres running its whole length, and blood-vessels crossing them, and proceeding from the sides of the lower-part of the bill, which opens into this pouch its whole length. It is thought to be a very long-lived bird; some writers say, it lives to sixty or seventy years. It seems to inhabit the greatest part of the old world, it being found in many climates both north and south, as well as the intermediate latitudes; it being pretty common in Russia, and abounding in Egypt.

Father Morolla, in his voyage to Congo, informs us, that in his journey to Singa, he observed certain large white birds, with long beaks, necks and feet, which whenever they heard the least sound of an instrument, began immediately to dance and leap about the rivers, where they always reside, and of which they are great lovers: this, he said, he took a great pleasure to contemplate, and continued often upon the banks of the rivers to observe.

Let the atheist then, who doubts or disbelieves the being of God or the creation of this world by omnipotent wisdom, let him only turn his eyes

upon this extraordinary bird, and ask his own heart, whether he can really believe such a creature the work of chance ! Let the parent contemplate the pelican, and from its admirable regard to its young, and the surprizing provision made by Providence for their support, learn the power and the excellence of parental storge ; and blush to be exceeded by an irrational creature ! And from the view, let the christian learn dependence upon his God, who having so wisely, and wonderfully provided for the nourishment and preservation of the animal world, will undoubtedly take due care of their temporal as well as eternal welfare, who with the humility, chearfulness, love and submission of children, submit themselves to the will of their Father and God.

The flesh of this bird however smells very rancid, and tastes worse than it smells. The native Americans kill vast numbers : not to eat, for they are not even fit for the banquet of a savage ; but to convert their large bags into purses and tobacco-pouches. They also dress the skin with salt and ashes, rubbing it well with oil, and then forming

forming it to their purpose. It thus becomes so soft and pliant, that the Spanish women sometimes adorn it with gold, and convert it into work-bags.

THE ALBATROSS.

THIS may be said to be one of the first of the gull-kind : it is one of the largest and most formidable birds of Africa and America. Its body is larger than that of the pelican, and its wings, when extended, measure ten feet from tip to tip. The bill, which is yellowish, is six inches long, and terminates in a crooked point : the top of the head is of a lightish brown ; the back is of a dark brown, spotted with black ; and the belly is white. The toes are webbed, and of a flesh-colour.

This bird inhabits the tropical climates, and is also seen as far as the straits of Magellan in the South-Sea. It is one of the most formidable of the aquatic tribe ; not only living upon fish, but also upon water-fowl. Like all the gull-kind, it preys upon the wing ; and chiefly pursues the flying-fish, that are forced from the ocean by

the dolphins. Our seas appear to be forsaken by every class of animated nature: but in the tropical seas, and the southern latitudes beyond them, various species of the gull-kind are seen hovering on the wing, at a thousand miles distance from the shore. The flying fish are continually rising to escape from their pursuers of the deep, only to encounter equal dangers in the air.

If we may credit Wiquefort, these birds are often seen sleeping in the air, entirely remote from land, with their head under one wing, and the other employed in beating the air. We will not presume to vouch for Mr. Wiquefort's veracity, but it is certain that few birds float upon the air with more ease than the albatross; or support themselves a longer time in that element.

The albatross has a peculiar affection for the penguin, and a pleasure in its society. Captain Hunt, who for some time commanded at our settlement upon Falkland islands, says he was often amazed at the union preserved between these two birds, and the regularity with which they built together. In

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that desolate spot, where the birds never dreaded the encroachments of men, they were seen to build with an amazing degree of uniformity ; their nests covering fields by thousands, and resembling a regular plantation : but since they have been disturbed by men, the society is broken up, and the nests are totally destroyed.

THE CORMORANT.

THE cormorant may be distinguished from all other birds of this kind, by its four toes being united together by membranes ; and the middle toe being notched like a saw, to assist it in holding its fishy prey. This species weighs about four pounds : it is thirty-two inches in length, and almost four feet in breadth. The bill, which is three inches and an half long, is dusky, and destitute of nostrils : the base of the lower chap is covered with a naked yellowish skin, that extends under the chin, forming a kind of pouch. The head and neck of this bird are of a sooty blackness, and the body thick and heavy ; more resembling the figure of a goose than that of a gull.

These

These birds occupy the highest parts of the cliffs impending over the sea; their nests are composed of sticks, sea-tang, grass, &c. in which they lay six or seven eggs, which are white, and of an oblong form. At the approach of winter, they are seen dispersed along the sea-shore, and ascending up the mouths of fresh-water rivers, carrying destruction to all the finny tribe. They are remarkably voracious, having almost sudden digestion: their appetite is for ever craving, and never satisfied; and this hunger is promoted by the vast quantity of small worms that fill their intestines.

With the grossest appetites, this bird has the rankest and most disagreeable smell of any bird, even when alive. Its form is disagreeable; its voice hoarse and croaking, and its qualities obscene. Milton, with great propriety, has made Satan personate this bird, to survey *undelighted* the beauties of Paradise, and sit on the *Tree of Life* * devising Death.

This bird seems to be of a multiform nature, and, wherever fish are to be found, watches their migrations: it

* Paradise Lost, book iv. l. 194, &c.

pursues

pursues its prey in fresh-water lakes, as well as in the depths of the ocean ; and preys by night as well as in the day-time. It is seldom seen in the air, except where there are fish below, and they must be near the surface, before it will venture to pounce upon them. It seldom makes an unsuccessful dip, and often rises with a larger fish than it can readily devour.

THE GANNET, OR SOLAND GOOSE.

THE gannet weighs about four pounds, and a quarter : it is three feet one inch in length, and six feet two inches in breadth. It is indeed about the size of a tame goose, but its wings are longer. The bill is six inches long, straight almost to the point, where it inclines down, and the sides are irregularly jagged, that it may hold its prey with greater security. It differs from the cormorant in size, being larger ; in its colour, which is chiefly white ; and having no nostrils, but in their stead a long furrow, extending almost to the end of the bill. The eyes, which are full of vivacity, are surrounded with a
naked

naked skin of a fine blue. A narrow flip of black bare skin, extends from the corner of the mouth to the hind part of the head; beneath the chin is another, that can be dilated like the pouch of the pelican, and is capable of containing five or six herrings. The neck is very long, the body flat, and very full of feathers.

Each bird, if left undisturbed, would only lay one egg in the year; but if that be taken away it will lay another; if robbed of that, then a third. A wise provision of nature to prevent the extinction of the species by accidents, and to supply food for the inhabitants of the places where they breed. The egg is white, and smaller than that of the common goose; the nest is large, and composed of grass, sea-plants, shavings, &c.

As these birds subsist entirely upon fish, they frequent those uninhabited islands where their food is found in plenty, and where they are undisturbed by mankind. The isle of Ailsa, in the firth of Clyde; the rocks adjacent to St. Kilda, a small isle near the Orkneys, the Skelig islands off the coasts of Kerry, in Ireland; and the
Bats

Bass isle, in the fyrrh of Edinburgh. In the last mentioned island, Dr. Harvey affirms that the surface is almost wholly covered, during the months of May and June, with nests, eggs, and young birds ; so that it is scarcely possible to walk without treading on them. The rocks of St. Kilda seem to be as much resorted to by these birds, and the inhabitants of that small island are principally supported by them and their eggs throughout the year.

The gannet is a bird of passage : its first appearance in those islands is in March ; and it quits them in August or September ; according as the inhabitants take or leave the first eggs. Its motions may probably be determined by the migrations of the immense shoals of herrings, that come pouring down at that season through the British channel, and supply all Europe as well as this bird with their spoil. The gannet assiduously attends the shoal in their passage, accompanies them in their whole circuit round our island, and shares with our fishermen, this exhaustless banquet. Whenever the gannet is seen it is sure to announce
to

e fishermen the arrival of the finny
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These birds are well known on most of our coasts, but not by the name of the Soland goose. They are called gannets in Cornwall and Ireland, and even in Wales. Gannets are sometimes taken at sea by the following deception : the fishermen fasten a pilchard to a board, and leave it floating, which alluring bait decoys the unwary gannet to its own destruction.

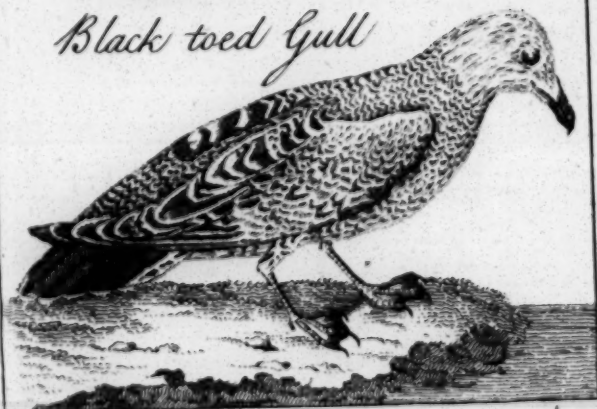
THE GULL AND PETREL.

THE larger gulls live at the most remote distance from man ; the smaller reside wherever they can take their prey ; and visit the most populous places, when solitude can no longer grant them a supply. In this class the gull, properly so called, may be placed ; of which there are upwards of twenty different kinds ; the petrel, of which there are three ; and the sea-swallow, of which there are about the same number. Gulls are to be distinguished by an angular knob, on the lower-chap ; petrels by being destitute of
this

Land Rail



Black toed Gull









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this knob; and sea-swallows by their bills, which are sharp-pointed, straight, and slender. In their appetites and places of abode they all perfectly agree.

The gull, and all its varieties, is seen with a slow-sailing flight hovering over rivers to prey upon the smaller kinds of fish; it follows the ploughman in fallow-fields to pick up insects; and, when living animal food is not to be obtained, it has no objection to carrion, or any thing of the kind that offers. But it is chiefly round our boldest rockiest shores that they are seen in the greatest abundance. It is on such shores that the rocks offer them a retreat for their young, and the sea is a sufficient supply. In the cavities of these rocks, of which the shore is composed, infinite variety of sea-fowls retire to breed in safety. The waves beneath, beating continually at the base, often wear the shore into an impending boldness; so that it appears to jut over the water; while the raging of the sea makes the place inaccessible from below.

Like all birds of the rapacious kind, the gull lays but few eggs; sometimes
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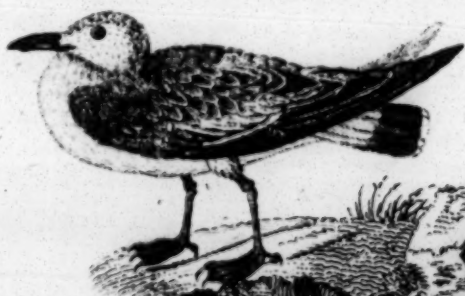
26 BIRDS of the PENGUIN KIND.

one, sometimes two, but never more than three ; it builds on the ledges of a rock, and its nest consists of long grass and sea-weed. Most of the kind have a fishy taste, with black stringy flesh ; but the young are better food ; and of these the poor inhabitants of our Northern islands, make their wretched banquets. They are almost strangers to any other food, and even salted gull may be relished by those who know no better.

OF BIRDS OF THE PENGUIN KIND.

THESE birds are not long-winged and swift flyers like those of the gull kind : they are indeed but indifferently formed for flight, and still less for walking. The duck is not half so unwieldy an animal as the whole tribe of the penguin kind. The largest of them, which have a thick heavy body to raise, are totally unable to fly ; their wings only serving them as paddles to help them forward, when they attempt to move swiftly. Even the smaller kinds seldom fly by choice ; they laboriously flutter their wings without making much

Winter Wren



Black toed Gull





progress, and, though they have but a small weight of body to sustain, they are unwilling to quit the water, which affords them both food and protection.

The legs of this whole tribe are still more awkwardly adapted for walking. All above the knee seems hid within the belly, and nothing appears but two short legs, as if they were stuck under the rump, and upon which the animal is very indifferently supported. Their short legs drive the body in progression from side to side; and, without the assistance of the wings, they could not move much faster than a tortoise: but this awkward position of the legs, suits them admirably for a residence in water. In that element, the legs being placed behind the body, pushes it forward with greater velocity.

They are also well qualified for diving: by inclining their bodies forward, they lose their center of gravity; and every stroke from their feet only tends to sink them the faster. They can either dive at once to the bottom, or swim between two waters; where they continue in pursuit of their prey for some minutes, and then ascending to catch breath, plunge in again to renew

28 BIRDS of the PENGUIN KIND.

their operations. Hence it is that birds of the penguin kind, which are so defenceless, and so easily taken by land, are impregnable by water. When they are pursued, they immediately sink, and shew nothing more than their bills, till the enemy is withdrawn.

They never visit land, except when they come to breed : that part of them which is continually in the water is white, but the back and wings are of different colours, according to the different species. They have a warmer covering of feathers than any other bird ; so that the sea appears to be their natural element ; and were it not for the necessary duties of propagating the species, we should have no opportunity of seeing them, and should be utterly unacquainted with them.

THE MAGELLANIC PENGUIN.

THE Magellanic penguin is the largest and most remarkable of the kind : it is not much inferior in size to the tame goose. It cannot fly, its wings being very short, covered with stiff hard feathers, always expanded and hanging uselessly down at the sides of

BIRDS of the PENGUIN KIND. 29

of the bird. The upper part of the head, the back, and the rump are covered with stiff black feathers; but the belly and back are of a snowy whiteness, except a line of black which crosses the crop: that half of the bill, which is towards the base, is black and covered with wrinkles, but is marked crosswise with a stripe of yellow.

These birds walk erect with their heads on high, their fin-like wings hanging down like arms. Fish is their only food, and they seldom come ashore but in the breeding season: they dive with great rapidity, and are extremely voracious. In consequence of this gluttonous appetite, their flesh is rank and fishy: though our sailors admit it to be tolerable good eating.

They are birds of society, and, when they come on shore, are seen drawn up in rank and file, upon the ledge of a rock, standing together with the albatross, as if in consultation. This is previous to their laying, which in that part of the world usually begins in the month of November; a small depression in the earth, without any materials, constitutes their nest. The progress of incubation is carried on

30 BIRDS *of the* PENGUIN KIND,

very rapidly by the heat of their bodies and the warmth of their feathers.

The manner of this bird's nestling is different in other countries : in some places, instead of being satisfied with a superficial depression in the ground, it burrows two or three yards deep ; in others it forsakes the level to clamber up the ledge of the rock, where it lays its single egg and hatches. Sometimes three or four take possession of one hole, and hatch their young together, in the holes of the rocks, where nature has made them a retreat. Linnæus assures us that several of this tribe are seen together. There the female lays her egg (for she never lays more than one) in a common nest ; while one is placed as a centinel to give warning of approaching danger. The egg of this penguin is very large for the size of the bird, and generally exceeds that of a goose in magnitude. But as there are many varieties of the penguin, and as they differ in size, from that of a Muscovy duck to a swan, the size of their eggs are proportionally different.

The black-footed penguin, mentioned by Edwards, has four toes, and
its

BIRDS of the PENGUIN KIND. 31

its wings are destitute of quill feathers.

THE AUK, THE PUFFIN, AND
OTHER BIRDS OF THE PENGUIN
KIND.

THERE is a numerous tribe of birds of nearly the same form, manners, and appetites as the penguin, though far inferior in size. They live upon the water, in which they are continually seen diving; and seldom venture upon land, except for the purpose of breeding.

The Great Northern Diver is the first of this smaller tribe, and is nearly of the size of a goose. It differs from the penguin, in being much slenderer and more elegantly formed, and is all over beautifully variegated with stripes.

The Grey Speckled Diver is not larger than the Muscovy duck, and resembles the great northern diver in every particular except size.

The Auk, which breeds on the island of St. Kilda, chiefly differs from the penguin in size and colour. It is not so large as a duck; and the whole of the breast and belly is white.

The

32 BIRDS of the PENGUIN KIND.

The Guillemot, is nearly of the same size as the auk, but has a longer, a slenderer, and a straighter bill.

The bill of the Puffin is different from that of any other bird : it is flat, with its edge upwards, of a triangular figure, and ending in a sharp point : the upper part is bent a little downward, where it is joined to the head ; and the base is encircled with a certain callous substance, like that of parrots. It is ash-coloured near the base, and red towards the point. The eyes, which are grey, are surrounded with a protuberant skin of a vivid colour. The legs of this bird are formed like those of the rest of the tribe ; it is therefore with difficulty that it rises, and it frequently falls before it gets upon the wing ; but as it is a small bird (not exceeding a pigeon in size) when it once rises, it can continue its flight with great facility.

These and all the smaller birds of the penguin kind, make no kind of nest, but lay their eggs either in the crevices of rocks, or in holes under ground near the shore. The latter situation is generally made choice of, because the auk, the puffin, the guillemot, and many

BIRDS of the PENGUIN KIND. 33

many others, cannot easily rise to the nest when it is in a lofty situation. Sometimes indeed by rendering them inaccessible to mankind, they make them almost inaccessible to themselves; and are frequently seen making several efforts before they can arrive at the place of incubation. On this account the auk and guillemot, when they have once laid their egg, seldom forsake it till it is excluded. During this period the male, which is better furnished for flight, feeds the female: and the place where she sits is so bare, that, were not the egg supported by the body of the bird, it would frequently roll down from the rock.

These birds are absent all the winter, visiting regions too remote for discovery. A few of them, which come as spies, are seen about the latter end of March, which, after staying two or three days, depart, and return again in the beginning of May, with the whole army of their companions. But if the season happens to be stormy and tempestuous, they are found in vast quantities cast away upon the shores, lean and perished with famine. It is imagined, therefore, that this voyage is performed

34 BIRDS of the PENGUIN KIND.

performed more on the water than in the air; and, as they cannot seize their prey in stormy weather, their strength is exhausted before they arrive at their destined port.

Near the isle of Anglesea in an islet, called *Præstholm*, their flocks are so large as to be compared to swarms of bees. In another islet, called the *Calf of Man*, birds of this kind, though of a different species, are seen in great abundance. Numbers of rabbits breed in both these places; and the puffin, not choosing to be at the trouble of making a hole, when there is one already made, dispossesses the rabbit, and probably destroys the young. In these unjustly acquired retreats, the young puffins are found in great abundance, and become a valuable acquisition to the natives of the place. Though their flesh is very rank, yet, when pickled and preserved with spices, they are admired by those who are fond of high eating.

This whole tribe is seen to take leave of their summer residence in August. The coldest countries seem to be their most favoured retreats; and the number of water-fowl is much greater in those

those colder climates, than in the warmer regions near the line.

THE WILD SWAN.

THESE birds frequent our coasts in large flocks when the winters are severe ; but we cannot learn that they ever breed in Great-Britain. We are informed by Martin *, that they come in October in great numbers to Lingay, one of the Western isles ; where they continue till March, and then retire more northward to breed. These, like most other water-fowl, prefer for that purpose those places that are least frequented by mankind : the lakes and forests of the distant Lapland are therefore filled, during summer, with myriads of water-fowl ; and swans, geese, the duck tribe, divers, &c. pass that season there ; but in autumn return to us, and to other more hospitable shores.

The wild swan is less than the tame by almost a fourth ; the former weighing but sixteen pounds and three quarters, and the latter twenty pounds. The

* Deacr. West. Isles, 71.

tame

tame swan is entirely white ; but the wild bird is of an ash-colour along the back, and on the tips of the wings : the eye-lids are bare and yellow, and the legs are dusky. The cry of the wild swan is very loud, and may be heard at a great distance ; it is therefore sometimes called the hooper.

THE TAME SWAN.

THE swan was considered as a high delicacy among the antients, and the goose was abstained from as totally indigestible. Modern manners have inverted tastes ; the goose is now become the favourite, and the swan is seldom brought to table, except for the purposes of ostentation.

The swan is the largest of the British birds : it is distinguished from the wild swan by its size, which is much larger, and by the bill, which in the tame bird is red, and the tip and side black : a black callous knob projects over the base of the upper chap. In old birds, the whole plumage is white, and, in young ones, ash-coloured. The legs are dusky. The swan lays seven or eight white eggs, which she is near two months

months in hatching. Its chief food is herbs growing in the water, roots and seeds growing near the margin, and insects. No bird perhaps makes so inelegant a figure out of the water, or has the command of such beautiful attitudes in that element as the swan. Almost every celebrated poet has taken notice of it, and Milton thus describes it.

—The swan with arched neck

Between her white wings mantling, proudly rows
Her state with oary feet *.

There is not a more beautiful figure in all nature : in the exhibition of its form, there are no broken or harsh lines, no constrained motions ; but the roundest contours, and the easiest transitions.

It is extremely difficult to reconcile the accounts of the ancients with the experience of the moderns, concerning the vocal powers of this bird. The tame swan is one of the most silent of animals, and the wild one has a loud and very disagreeable note : there is not the smallest degree of melody in

* Par, Lost, b. vii.

either, and yet it was the general opinion of antiquity that the swan was a most melodious bird. But while Plato, Aristotle, and Diodorus Siculus believed the vocality of the swan, Pliny and Virgil seem to doubt that received opinion. The ancients had perhaps some mythological meaning in ascribing melody to swans; for, when Virgil speaks of them figuratively, he ascribes to them melody, or the power of music; but when he talks of them as birds, he lays aside fiction, and, like a true naturalist, gives them their real note.

The ancients held a still more singular opinion, imagining that the swan foretold its own death: this is doubtless a poetical flight; and, as to their being supposed to sing more sweetly at the approach of death, the cause is beautifully explained by Plato, who attributes that unusual melody to the same sort of extacy that good men are sometimes said to enjoy at that awful hour, foreseeing the joys that are preparing for them on putting off mortality.

All the stages of the swan's approach to maturity are slow, and seem expressive of its longevity. Pliny observes

that those animals which are the longest in the womb are the longest lived; the swan is the longest in the shell of any bird we know, and it is a year in growing to its proper size. It is said a swan will live three hundred years; and Willoughby, who cannot be accused of easy credulity, is inclined to believe the report. A goose, as he justly observes, has been known to live an hundred years; and the swan being a larger bird, and its flesh of a firmer texture, may be supposed to live much longer.

Swans were formerly so much esteemed in England, that by an act of Henry IV. c. 6. no one, except the king's son, was permitted to keep a swan, unless he possessed of a freehold of five marks a year. And by stat. 2. Henry VII. the punishment for taking their eggs, was imprisonment for a year and a day, and a fine at the king's pleasure. At present they are less valued for the delicacy of their flesh, but great numbers of them are still preserved for their beauty. They are in great abundance on the Thames and the Trent, and particularly on the salt water inlet of the sea, near Abbotsbury, in Dorsetshire.

By the antients the swan was consecrated to Apollo and the muses. It was also consecrated to Venus, probably on account of its extreme whiteness: the car of that goddess is sometimes drawn by swans.

THE GOOSE.

THE goose, in its wild state, always retains the same marks: the whole upper part is ash-coloured; the breast and belly are of a dirty white; the quill feathers and the tail are dusky, the latter being edged with white; the bill is narrow, black at the base and tip, and red in the middle; the legs are of a saffron colour, and the claws are black. In its domestic state the goose, as well as other animals, vary almost infinitely in their colours.

The wild goose is supposed to breed in the retired parts of the north of Europe; and, at the approach of winter, to descend into more temperate regions. These birds are often seen in flocks from fifty to an hundred, flying at very great heights, and preserving great regularity in their motion; sometimes

times forming a straight line ; at other times assuming the shape of a wedge, which facilitates their progress. Their cry is frequently heard when they are at an imperceptible distance above us. It is probable that this is a note of mutual encouragement, as they seldom exert it when they alight in those journeys. When they descend to the ground, they range themselves in a line, like cranes ; and seem rather to have come down for rest, than for any other refreshment. When they have continued in this situation for an hour or two, one of them has been heard to sound a kind of charge, with a loud note, which has been punctually attended to by the others, and they have immediately pursued their journey with renewed alacrity.

The wild goose, and many other varieties, agree in one common character of feeding upon vegetables, and being remarkable for their fecundity ; but the tame goose is the most fruitful of the kind. Having very few enemies, it leads a safer and more plentiful life, and its prolific powers encrease in proportion to its ease : it is frequently known to lay upwards of

twenty eggs, but the wild goose seldom exceeds eight. The tame female is very assiduous in hatching her eggs, during which time she receives two or three visits in the day from the gander; who sometimes drives her from the nest to take her place, which he fills with great state and composure.

When the young are excluded, the pride of the gander is inconceivable; considering himself as a champion to defend his young, and to keep off even the suspicion of danger, he pursues dogs and men that never attempt to molest him; and when he has attempted to attack a mastiff, or any other animal, to whose contempt alone he is indebted for his safety, he returns in triumph to his female and her brood, screaming and clapping his wings, as if conscious of having obtained a victory.

The flesh of a young goose is certainly very good eating; but the value of this bird is greatly increased by its feathers. Not to mention the quills, which are so easily converted into pens, and thereby become essentially useful to the scholar, the lawyer, and the trader, the feathers are highly valuable

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in another capacity, as the warmest and softest beds are made of them.

Most of our beds in Europe are composed of goose-feathers ; though the use of them is utterly unknown in the countries bordering upon the Levant, and in all Asia. They have mattresses, stuffed with wool, camel's-hair, or cotton ; the warmth of their climate rendering a softer bed unnecessary. It is however surprizing that feather-beds were not in use among the ancients : Pliny indeed informs us that they made bolsters of feathers to lay their heads on ; but this is an additional proof that they were not used for the body to repose on.

Vast quantities of tame geese are kept in the fens in Lincolnshire, which are plucked about the neck, breast, and back once, if not twice a year. These feathers are a considerable article of commerce ; but those of Somersetshire are most esteemed by the trade ; as those of Ireland are reckoned the worst. Hudson's-Bay furnishes very fine feathers, supposed to be of the goose kind. The down of the swan is imported from Dantzick, from whence we also receive

a great quantity of the feathers of the cock and the hen.

Eider down is brought from Denmark ; the ducks which furnish it being inhabitants of Hudson's-Bay, Greenland, Iceland, and Norway.

Feathers are cured by laying them in a room in an open exposure to the sun, and, when dried, putting them in bags, and beating them well with poles to get the dirt off. Nothing, however, but time, will prevent the smell which arises from the putrefaction of the oil contained in every feather : laying upon them is the only remedy ; old feathers are therefore much more valuable than new.

Geese are very profitable to the farmer for their flesh, their feathers, and their grease. They will live upon commons or any sort of pastures, and need very little care or attendance ; only they should have plenty of water. The largest geese are reckoned the best : but there is a sort of Spanish geese, that is a much better layer and breeder than the English, especially if the eggs are hatched under an English goose.

Geese

Geese should lay in the spring, the earlier the better ; because of their price, and their having a second brood. They usually lay twelve or sixteen eggs. You may know when they will lay, by their carrying straw in their mouth ; and when they will sit, by their continuing on their nests after they have laid. A goose sits thirty days ; but if the weather be fair and warm, they will hatch three or four days sooner. After the goslings are excluded, some keep them in the house ten or twelve days, and feed them with curds, barley-meal, bran, &c. and when they have acquired some strength, let them out four or five hours a day, taking them in again, until they are large enough to defend themselves from vermin. Others put them out at first, and perhaps succeed as well as the former. One gander is sufficient for five geese.

If you would fat green-geese, you must shut them up when they are about a month old, and they will be fat in about a month more. Be sure to let them have always by them, in a small rack, some fine hay, which will greatly hasten their fatting. But for fatting of older geese, it is commonly done when

when they are about six months old, in or soon after harvest, when they have been in stubble-fields, from which food some kill them. But those who are desirous of having them very fat, should shut them up, for a fortnight or three weeks, and feed them with oats, split beans, barley-meal, or ground malt mixed with milk ; but the best thing to fatten them with is malt mixed with beer. You must however observe in fattening all sorts of water-fowl, that they usually sit with their bills upon their rumps, where they suck out the greatest part of their moisture and fatness, at a small bunch of feathers ; which you will find standing upright on their rumps, and always moist, with which they trim their feathers, which renders them more oily and slippery than the feathers of other fowls, and causes the water to slip off them. If therefore these upright feathers are cut away close, they will become fat in less time, and with less meat than otherwise. Geese will likewise feed on, and fatten well with carrots cut small and given them ; or if you give them rye before, or about Midsummer, it will strengthen them,
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and keep them in health, that being commonly their sickly time.

THE WHITE-FOOTED WILD GOOSE.

THIS bird is frequently seen in winter in the marshes of Cheshire, and in all the northern world as far as Hudson's-Bay. It is twenty-eight inches in length, and four feet and an half in breadth, and weighs about five pounds: the bill is much thicker and larger than that of the common wild goose, and is of a reddish yellow: the forehead white, the head brown, and the upper part of the breast of a light ash-colour, clouded with a deeper. The belly is white, spotted with black; the coverts of the wings are grey, edged with brown. The tail is black, edged with white: the legs are orange colour, and the claws of a pale flesh colour.

THE BARNACLE.

THE length of this bird is about two feet and one inch; the breadth four feet five inches, and the weight about five pounds; the bill is black
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and not quite two inches long: the head is small, and the forehead and cheeks white; and a black line extends from the bill to the eyes: the neck, the hind-part of the head, and the upper-part of the breast and back are of a deep black: the belly and the coverts of the tail are white; the back, scapulars, and coverts of the wings, are beautifully barred with grey, black, and white: the tail and legs are black.

During winter, these birds appear in vast flocks, on the north-west coasts of this kingdom. They are naturally very wild and shy; but, when taken, grow as familiar as our tame geese in a very few days. They quit our shores in February, and go to breed in Lapland, Greenland, and Spitsbergen. A ridiculous error has been propagated of this bird's being bred from a shell that is often found sticking at the bottoms of ships: but it is now well known to be hatched from an egg in the ordinary manner, and to differ in very few particulars from all the rest of its kind.

THE BRENT GOOSE.

THIS is smaller than the barnacle ; its bill is black, and one inch and an half long. The head, neck, and upper-part of the breast are black ; but about the middle of the neck, on each side, is a spot of white : the lower-part of the breast, the scapulars, and the coverts of the wings are ash-coloured, clouded with a deeper shade ; the tail, the quill-feathers, and the legs are black. These birds are common on our coasts in winter. In Ireland they are called barnacles, and appear in great numbers in August, leaving it in March. Their principal food is a kind of long grass growing in the water : they prefer the root and that part next above it, which they dive for, bite off, and leave the upper-part to drive on shore. Near London-Derry, Belfast, and Wexford, they are extremely numerous, and are taken in the night-time in nets placed across the rivers. They are much esteemed for their delicacy : Linnæus erroneously mentions the barnacle and the brent as synonymous, and describes the true bar-

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nacle as the female of the white-fronted wild goose; but Mr. Willoughby, Mr. Ray, and Mr. Brisson very properly describe them as different species.

THE CANADA GOOSE.

THE shape of this bird is like that of our common tame goose, but a little longer; the back is of a brownish ash-colour, and the rump black: the lowest part of the tail is whitish, and the remaining feathers black: the lesser and covert feathers are of a brownish ash-colour, and the feet are black.

THE BLUE-WINGED GOOSE of NORTH-AMERICA.

THIS is smaller than the common tame goose, and has a red bill. The head, and greatest part of the neck is white. The back, the breast, and lower part of the neck, are of a dark brown. The tail is of a brownish ash-colour, and the belly and thighs are white. The legs are bare of feathers just above the knee, and the three forward toes are webbed. The legs and feet are red, and the toes are black.

that which is backwards being very small. This is a native of Hudson's-Bay.

THE MUSCOVY GOOSE.

THIS is a curious large fowl, and is three feet in length from the tip of the bill to the end of the tail; and, when the wings are extended, near five feet in breadth. It weighs about fourteen pounds: the bill is of an orange-colour, with a large tubercle or knob of the same colour on the base of the upper-jaw. The pupil of the eye is black, with a fine gold-coloured iris, and a large bag hangs beneath the bill. The top of the head and the sides of the neck are of a dark brown: the upper-part of the back is of the same colour, except that the outer edges of the feathers are of a lighter colour. The wings and the rest of the body are white, except a few dark feathers on the upper-part of the tail: the legs and feet are of a fine orange-colour, and the claws are black. This is the description of the male, which the female greatly resembles, except that the knob is not so large.

The mountain goose of the Cape of Good Hope is larger than any of the European kind : the feathers on the top of the head and the wings are of a very beautiful shining green. It frequently comes into the valleys, where it feeds on grass and herbs.

The water-goose of the Cape of Good Hope is like the common goose with respect to colour, but has a brownish stripe, mixed with green on the back. The flesh of both of these is said to be very good.

THE TAME DUCK.

THIS is the most easily reared of any of our domestic animals. The very instincts of the young ones direct them to their favourite element; and, though they are hatched and conducted by the hen, they despise the admonitions of their leader. All birds have their manners rather from nature than education; and those of the duck kind, in particular, follow their appetites, not their tutor, and attain their various perfections without a guide. The arts of man indeed are the result of accumulated experience, those of inferior animals

White throated duck



Garganey



little Brown duck





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animals are in general self-taught, and not acquired by imitation.

It is customary to lay duck-eggs under a hen, because she hatches them better than the parent would have done. The duck is a careless inattentive mother, frequently leaving her eggs till they spoil, and seeming almost to forget that she is entrusted with the charge: she shews but very little more attention to the young, when they are produced: she leads them to the pond, and supposes she has sufficiently provided for her offspring when she has shewn them the water. The hen, on the contrary, is a most indefatigable nurse; she broods with the utmost assiduity, and usually brings forth a young one for every egg committed to her charge. She does not indeed lead them to the water, but she carefully guards them when they are there, by standing on the brink. She can afford them protection, if the weazel or the rat attempt to seize them: when weary of paddling, she conducts them to the house, and rears the suppositious brood, without suspecting that they are not her own.

Of the tame duck there are not less than ten different varieties, and Brisson

reckons upwards of twenty of the wild. The most obvious distinction, however, between wild and tame ducks is in the colour of their feet; those of the tame duck being black, and those of the wild duck yellow.

The common tame species of ducks take their origin from the mallard, and may be traced to it by unerring characters. The drakes, however they vary in colours, always retain the curled feathers of the tail; and both sexes the form of the bill of the wild kind.

Nature, for a wise and useful end, sports in the colours of all domestic animals, that mankind may the more readily distinguish and claim their respective property.

The mallard is usually about twenty-three inches in length, thirty-five inches in breadth, and weighs about two pounds and an half: the bill is greenish inclining to yellow; and the head and neck are of a deep shining green. Almost a circle of white extends round the lower-part of the neck; but the circle wants about a fourth of being complete. The upper-part of the breast is of a purplish red, and the beginning of the back is of the same colour:

colour: the breast and belly are grey, marked with transverse speckled lines of a dusky hue. The scapulars are white, elegantly barred with brown. The spot on the wing is of a rich purple; and the tail consists of twenty-four feathers. The male of this species is distinguished by four middle feathers, which are black and strongly curled upwards; but the females have not this mark. Their plumage is of a pale reddish brown, spotted with black; and their legs are of a saffron-colour.

“Ducks,” says Mr. Mortimer, in his *Husbandry* *, “require no charge in keeping, for they live on lost corn, snails, &c. for which reason they are very proper for gardens. Once in the year they lay a great number of eggs, especially a sort of duck which turns up its bill more than the common kind. When they sit they require no attendance, except they have a little barley or offall-corn near them, that they may not straggle far from their nests to chill their eggs. They are reckoned to be better hatched under a hen than a duck; because while they are young, the hen will not lead them so often into the water. Some think it very proper

* Vol. I. p. 237.

to cut off the feathers from their rumps; because, when their tails are wet, it often occasions their drowning. As to the fattening of them, it may be done in three weeks time, by giving them any kind of corn or grain, and plenty of water. Ground malt, wet either with milk or water, is best."

THE EIDER DUCK.

THIS useful species is found in the western isles of Scotland; but in great abundance in Norway, Iceland, and Greenland; from whence is imported a vast quantity of the down, known by the name of Eider, which is furnished by these birds. Its remarkably light, elastic, and warm qualities, make it highly esteemed as a stuffing for coverlets, by such whom infirmities render unable to support the weight of common blankets.

This bird, which resides in the colder climates, as we have already observed, lays from six to eight eggs, making her nest among the rocks or plants on the sea-shore. There is nothing very singular in the external materials of the nest; but the inside lining, on which
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the eggs are deposited, is the warmest, softest, and lightest substance that can be imagined. This is no other than the down produced from the breast of the bird in the breeding-season, which the female plucks off with her bill, and furnishes her nest with a more valuable lining than the most skilful artists can produce. The natives are industrious in finding out the nest, and after suffering the bird to lay, rob her of both the eggs and the nest. Not discouraged by the first disappointment, the duck builds and lays a second time in the same nest. The second mansion, with its valuable furniture, is also taken away by the natives. She ventures, however, to build a third time, but the down for the lining of this nest is supplied from the breast of the drake. If this is stolen from them, they both forsake the place and breed there no more. This down is separated from the dust and moss by the natives; and, though they require a warm covering themselves, their necessities oblige them to exchange it for brandy and tobacco, with the more indolent and luxurious inhabitants of the south.

THE

THE WILD DUCK.

THE difference between wild ducks, arises principally from their size, and the nature of the place they feed in. Sea-ducks, which frequent the salt-water, and often dive, have a broad bill pointing upwards, a large hind-toe, and a long blunt tail. Pond-ducks have a straight and narrow bill, a small hind-toe, and a sharp-pointed train. Our decoy-men give the former the appellation of foreign ducks; the latter are supposed to be natives of England.

All the varieties of wild ducks live in the manner of our domestic ducks, keeping together in flocks in the winter, and flying in pairs in summer, rearing their young by the water-side, and leading them to their food as soon as they escape the shell. They usually build their nests among heath or rushes, at no great distance from the water; and lay twelve, fourteen, or more eggs before they sit. But, though this is their general method, their dangerous situation on the ground sometimes obliges them to change their manner
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of living ; and their aukward nests are frequently seen exalted on the tops of trees. This must be attended with great difficulty, as the bill of a duck is but ill-formed for building a nest, or furnishing it with such materials as to give it sufficient stability to stand the weather. The nest thus elevated generally consists of long grass, mixed with heath, and lined with the bird's own feathers. But, in proportion as the climate is colder, the nest is more artificially made, and has a warmer lining. In the Arctic regions, all the birds of this kind take incredible pains to protect their eggs from the severity of the weather. The gull and the penguin tribe seems to disregard the most intense cold in those regions, but the duck forms itself a hole to lay in, shelters the approach, lines it with a layer of grass and clay, another of moss within that, and then a warm coat of down or feathers.

As these birds possess the faculties of flying and swimming, they are principally birds of passage, and probably perform their journies across the ocean as well on the water as in the air. Those which visit this country on the
1 approach

approach of winter, are neither so fat nor so well-tasted as those that remain with us the whole year : their flesh is often lean, and generally fishy. This flavour it has perhaps contracted in the journey ; their food in the lakes of Lapland, from whence they descend, being generally of the insect kind.

When they arrive among us, they fly about in flocks in search of a proper residence for the winter. In the choice of this they have two objects in view ; to be near their food, though remote from interruption. They prefer a lake in the neighbourhood of a marsh, where there is also a cover of woods, and where insects are the most plentiful. Lakes which have a marsh on one side, and a wood on the other, generally abound with wild fowl.

Wild ducks, when flying in the air, are often lured down from their heights by the loud voice of the mallard from below : all the stragglers attend to this call ; and, in the course of ten or fifteen days, a lake that was quite naked before, becomes black with water-fowl ; having deserted their Lapland retreats, to visit these ducks which reside continually among us.

They

They usually make choice of that part of the lake, where they are inaccessible to the approach of the fowler, in which they all appear huddled together, and are extremely loud and busy. Where they sit and cabal thus, there is no food for them, as they generally choose the middle of the lake, and what can employ them all the day it is not easy to conjecture. They frequently go off privately by night to feed in the adjacent meadows and ditches, which they are afraid to approach by day. In these nocturnal adventures they are often taken; for, though timorous, they are easily deceived, and many of them are caught in springes. The greatest quantities, however, are taken in decoys, which are well known in the neighbourhood of London, though very little used in the remoter parts of the country.

The general season for catching fowl in decoys is from the latter end of October to the beginning of February. By an act of George the Second, a penalty of five shillings is incurred for every bird destroyed at any other season.

The decoys in Lincolnshire are usually let at a certain annual rent, from

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five pounds to thirty pounds a year. By these the markets of London are principally supplied with wild fowl. Upwards of thirty thousand of ducks, wigeon, and teal, have been sent up in one season, from ten decoys in the neighbourhood of Wainfleet.

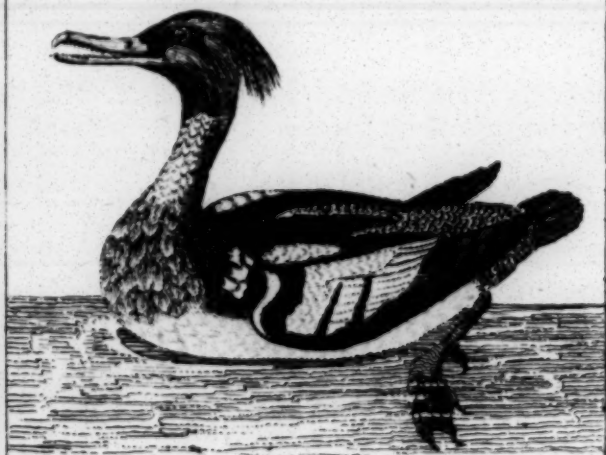
THE GOOSANDER.

THE goosander frequents our rivers and other fresh waters, especially in severe winters ; they are excellent divers, and live on fish. The length of the male is about two feet four inches, the breadth three feet two inches, and the weight four pounds. The bill is three inches long, narrow, and finely toothed : the colour of that and the irides is red. The head is large, and the feathers on the hind-part long and loose : the colour black, beautifully glossed with green ; the upper-part of the neck is the same : the lower-part and the belly is of a fine pale yellow, the upper-part of the back, and the inner scapulars are black : the lower-part of the back, and the tail are ash-coloured : the tail consists of eighteen feathers : the greater quill-feathers are black.

Male red breasted Goosander



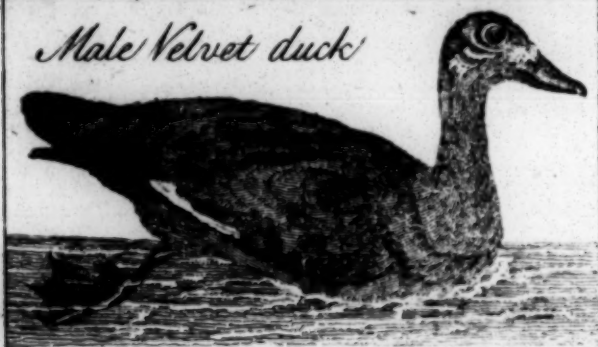
Female red breasted Goosander







Male Velvet duck



Female Velvet duck



Swallow tailed Shield duck



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black, the lesser white, and some of them are edged with black: the coverts at the setting on of the wing are black, the rest white; and the legs are of a deep orange-colour.

The female, which is sometimes called the dun-diver, is less than the male: the head, and the upper-part of the neck are of an iron-colour; the throat white: the feathers on the hind-part are long, and form a pendent crest: the back, the coverts of the wings, and the tail are of a deeper ash-colour: the greater quill-feathers are black, the lesser white: the breast and belly are white, tinged with yellow.

THE VELVET DUCK.

THE male of this species is larger than the tame duck. The bill is broad and short, yellow on the sides, black in the middle, and the hook red: the head, and part of the neck is black, tinged with green: behind each ear is a white spot; and in each wing is a white feather; the rest of the plumage is of a fine black, and of the soft and delicate appearance of velvet: the legs and feet are red; the webs black: the

female is entirely of a deep brown-colour, the marks behind each ear and on the wings excepted : the bill is like that of the male, except that it wants the protuberance at the base.

THE SCOTER.

THE scoter weighs two pounds nine ounces : the length is twenty-two inches ; and the breadth thirty-four inches : the middle of the bill is of a fine yellow, the rest is black : both male and female want the hook at the end ; but on the base of the bill of the former is a large knob, divided by a fissure in the middle. The tail consists of sixteen sharp-pointed feathers, of which the middle are the longest. The colour of the whole plumage is black ; that of the head and neck glossed over with purple : the legs are black. This bird is allowed in the Romish church to be eaten in Lent. It is a great diver, said to live almost constantly at sea ; and to be taken in nets placed under water.

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THE TUFTED DUCK.

THIS bird does not weigh above two pounds ; the length is about fifteen inches and a half ; the bill is of a bluish grey, except the hook, which is black. The head is adorned with a short thick pendent crest. The belly and under coverts of the wings are of a pure white ; the rest of the plumage is black, varied about the head with purple ; the tail is short, consisting of fourteen feathers : the legs are of a bluish grey, and the webs black. The female has no crest. When young she is of a deep brown, and the sides of the head next the bill of a pale yellow, but she preserves the other marks of the old duck.

THE SCAUP DUCK.

THIS is smaller than the common duck. The bill broad, flat, and of a greyish blue colour : the head and neck black glossed with green : the breast is black : the back, the coverts of the wings, and the scapulars, are finely marked with numerous narrow trans-

verse bars of black and grey : the greater quill-feathers are dusky ; the lesser white, tipped with black : the belly is white : the tail and feathers, both above and below are black ; the thighs barred with dusky and white strokes : the legs dusky.

These birds differ infinitely in colours ; so that in a flock of forty or fifty there are not two alike.

THE GOLDEN EYE.

THE length of this species is nineteen inches ; the breadth thirty-one inches, and the weight about two pounds. The bill is black, short, and broad at the base : the head, which is large, is of a deep black, glossed with green : at each corner of the mouth is a large white spot. The irides are of a bright yellow ; the upper-part of the neck is of the same colour with that of the head : the breast and belly are white : the scapulars are black and white : the back, tail, and the coverts on the ridge of the wings are black : the fourteen first quill-feathers, and the four last are black ; the seven middlemost are white, as are the coverts immediately above

above them : the legs are of an orange-colour. The head of the female is of a deep brown, tinged with red : the neck grey : the breast and belly are white : the coverts and scapulars dusky and ash-coloured : the middle quill-feathers white ; the others, together with the tail, are black ; the legs dusky. These birds frequent fresh water, as well as the sea ; and are found during winter on the Shropshire meres,

THE SHIELDRAKE.

THE length of the male of this elegant species is two feet ; the breadth three feet and a half ; and the weight two pounds ten ounces. The bill is of a bright red, swelling at the base into a knob, which is most conspicuous in the Spring ; the head and upper-part of the neck is of a fine blackish green ; the lower-part of the neck is white ; the breast, and the upper-part of the back is furrounded with a broad band of bright orange-bay ; the coverts of the wings, and the middle of the back are white ; the nearest scapulars black, the others white ; the greater quill-feathers are black ; the exterior
webs

webs of the next are a fine green, and those of the three succeeding orange ; the coverts of the tail are white ; the tail itself of the same colour, and except the two outermost feathers tipped with black ; the belly is white, divided lengthways by a black line ; the legs of a pale flesh colour.

These birds frequent the sea-coasts, and breed in rabbit-holes. If any one attempts to take their young, the old birds shew great address in diverting his attention from the brood ; they fly along the ground as if they were wounded, until the young are got into a place of security, and then return and collect them together. The shieldrake lays fifteen or sixteen eggs, which are white, and of a rounded shape. In winter they assemble in great flocks. Their flesh is very rank and disagreeable.

THE PINTAIL DUCK.

THIS bird is of a slender form, and has a long neck : its length is twenty-eight inches ; its breadth about three feet two inches ; and its weight twenty-four ounces. The bill is black in the middle,

middle, and blue on the sides : the head is of an iron-colour, tinged behind the ears with purple, a white line extends from the ears a considerable way down the neck ; this line is bounded by black : the hind-part of the neck, the back, and sides are elegantly marked with white and dusky waved lines : the fore-part of the neck, and belly are white ; the scapulars striped with black and white ; the coverts of the wings are ash-coloured ; the lowest tip with dull orange : the middle quill-feathers barred on their outmost webs with green, black and white : the exterior feathers of the tail are ash-coloured ; the two middle black, and three inches longer than the others ; the feet are of a lead-colour. The female is of a light brown colour, spotted with black. These birds are found in great abundance in Connaught, in Ireland, in the month of February only : they are much esteemed for their delicacy.

THE POCHARD.

THE length of this bird is about nineteen inches ; its breadth two feet and

and an half; and its weight twenty-eight ounces. The bill is of a deep lead-colour; the head and neck are of a bright bay-colour; the breast, and part of the back where it joins the neck are black; the coverts of the wings, the scapulars, back, and sides under the wings are of a pale grey, elegantly marked with narrow lines of black: the quill-feathers dusky; the belly is ash-coloured and brown; the tail, which consists of twelve short feathers, is of a deep grey-colour; the legs lead-coloured: the irides of a bright yellow, tinged with red. The head of the female is of a pale reddish-brown; the breast is rather of a deeper colour; the coverts of the wings a pale ash-colour; the belly ash-coloured. These birds frequent both fresh and salt water; and are very delicate eating. They are known in the London markets by the name of Dun birds.

THE GREY-HEADED DUCK.

WE are indebted to Mr. Bolton for an account of this bird, which he suspects to be the Glaucion of authors. It agrees in all respects with Belon's
de-

description of that bird, the head and neck excepted, which in that of the French ornithologist are of a reddish brown.

It is the size of a common duck; the bill large, broad, and serrated round the edges, and of a yellowish brown colour; the head large and round; the irides of the colour of gold; the head and upper-part of the neck are of a deep grey; at the extremity of the grey passes a collar of white half an inch broad, surrounding the neck. The breast is of a silvery-grey: the belly quite white; the back and wings black; the latter, when expanded, shew a few white feathers; the tail is short and black; the legs are of a yellowish brown-colour; the hind-toe small.

THE WIGEON.

THE length of the wigeon is twenty inches; the breadth two feet three inches; and the weight about twenty-three ounces. The bill is lead-coloured, and black at the end; the head, and upper-part of the neck is of a bright light bay; the forehead somewhat paler, and in some almost white; the

the plumage of the back and sides are elegantly marked with narrow, black, and white undulated lines ; the breast is of a purplish hue, and is sometimes marked with round black spots ; the belly is white. In some the coverts of the wings are almost wholly white ; in others of a pale brown, edged with white ; the greater quill-feathers are dusky ; the outmost webs of the middle-feathers are of a fine green, with black tips. The two middle-feathers of the tail, which are longer than the others, are black and sharp-pointed ; the rest are ash-coloured : the legs dusky. The head of the female is of a rusty-brown, spotted with black ; the back is of a deep brown edged with a paler ; and the belly white.

THE GADWALL.

THE gadwall is rather smaller than the wigeon. The bill, which is two inches long, is black, and flat ; the head, and the upper-part of the neck, are of a reddish brown, spotted with black ; the lower-part, the breast, the upper-part of the back, and the scapulars, are beautifully marked with black and

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and white lines ; the belly is of a dirty white ; the rump above and below is black ; the tail ash coloured, edged with white ; the coverts on the ridge of the wing are of a pale reddish brown ; the greater quill-feathers are dusky ; the inner-web of three of the lesser quill-feathers is white ; which forms a conspicuous spot ; the legs are orange-coloured. The breast of the female is of a reddish brown, spotted with black ; and the back of the same colour ; the wings, though they have the same marks, are not so bright as those of the male.

THE GARGANEY.

THIS bird is of a size between the pigeon and the teal. The bill is of a deep lead-colour ; the crown of the head is dusky, marked with oblong streaks ; on the chin is a large black spot ; from the corner of each eye is a long white line, pointing to the back of the neck : the cheeks, and upper-part of the neck, are of a pale purple, marked with minute oblong lines of white, pointing downwards ; the breast is of a light brown, marked with semi-circular bars of black : the belly is

VOL. VIII. H white ;

white; the coverts of the wings are grey; but the lowest are tipped with white; the first quill-feathers are ash-coloured; the exterior webs of those in the middle are green; the scapulars are long and narrow, and elegantly striped with white, ash-colour, and black; the tail is dusky; and the legs of a lead colour. The female has an obscure white mark over the eye; the rest of the plumage is of a brownish ash-colour.

THE TEAL.

THE teal weighs about twelve ounces; the length of the teal is about fifteen inches, and the breadth twenty-eight inches. The bill is black: the head, and the upper part of the neck are of a deep bay; from the bill to the hind-part of the head extends a broad bar of glossy changeable green, bounded on the lower-side by a narrow white line; the lower-part of the neck, the beginning of the back, and the sides under the wings, are elegantly marked with waved lines of black and white; the breast and belly are of a dirty white; the tail is sharp-pointed,

and dusky; the coverts of the wings are brown; the greater quill-feathers are dusky; the exterior webs of the lesser are marked with a glossy green spot, above that another of black, and the tips white; the irides are whitish; and the legs dusky. The female is of a brownish ash-colour, spotted with black; and, like the male, has a green spot on the wings.

The summer teal, it is imagined, differs not in the species from the common kind, only in sex. Linnæus hath placed it among the birds of his country; but does not mention its place of residence, and hath evidently copied Mr. Willoughby's imperfect description of it: and to confirm our opinion of its being the same species, a bird which was sent us from the Baltic-sea, under the title of *anas circia*, the summer teal of Linnæus, was no other than the female of our teal.

THE WHITE-BELLIED DUCK OF JAMAICA.

THIS bird is about twenty inches long, and the breadth is thirty inches. The bill is black, near two inches long,

and the holes of the nostrils are round. The tail is three inches long, and the feathers on the head are mottled with light and dark brown. The upper part of the neck, the sides under the wings, and part of the belly, are covered with brown feathers crossed with whitish lines. The back is more brown, and the tail and wings are of light brown; but some of the shorter prime feathers are painted with green, orange, and white. The breast and part of the belly is white, and the legs and feet are of a greenish brown.

THE BARBARY DUCK.

THE Barbary duck is of the size between a goose and a duck, but the legs are short, and the male is larger than the female. The colour is not always the same; some being white, others black, and others of different colours, but it is generally black, variegated with other colours. The bill of the bird is short, broad, and crooked at the end; and it has a crest or red tubercle between the eyes as large as a cherry, and a red skin about the eyes, which has the appearance of red leather.

flesh has a taste between a goose and a duck.

THE MADAGASCAR DUCK.

THIS bird is larger than the tame duck, its bill is of a yellowish brown, and the iris of the eyes of a fine red. The neck and head are of a dusky green, and the back of a deep purple mixed with blue; the edges of the feathers are red, and the breast of a deep brown, with the edges of the outer-feathers red; but the feathers on the shoulders are green, some of which have red edges. The first row of the covert feathers is of the same colour, and the second is green. The long feathers of the wings have red edges, and the legs and feet are of an orange-colour.

THE COOT-FOOTED TRINGA.

THE bill is black, slender, and terminates in a point. The upper-chap longer than the lower, and bent a little downwards. A blackish line runs from the nostril through the eye; but the under side of the head and throat

is white. An orange-coloured line runs behind each eye, and down each side of the neck, joining on the fore-part to the middle of the neck beneath the white throat. On the top of the head, the hind-part of the neck, all round the lower-part of the neck, back, and coverts of the wings, the feathers are of an ash-colour; but the greater quills are black, and the middle are black with white tips; the other parts of the back are of a dusky brown. Between the back and the wings, there are a few long feathers edged with orange, and the rump is dusky and white mixed with transverse lines. The tail is dusky, and the breast, belly, and thighs are white. The legs are bare above the knees, and the legs, feet, and claws, are of a lead colour.

THE BAHAMA DUCK.

THIS bird is smaller than a tame duck; the head near the upper-jaw is of a triangular shape, and of a gold colour. The inside of the bill, and the lower-part of the neck are white; the hind-part of the head, the breast and belly are of a yellowish ash-colour,

and the wings brown ; but the middle is green furrounded with yellow, and the extremities are black.

THE FRENCH TEAL.

THIS is much smaller than a duck ; it appears only in the autumn and the winter : they are all of the same colour, only the females are grey about the neck, and yellowish under the belly : the colour is brown on the back, upon the wings, and under the rump. Like ducks they have a shining spot upon each wing, and a white line underneath, which proceeds from the extremity of the wings ; the twelve prime feathers are of the same colour ; but the next following are white at the extremities, and make another white line ; the other feathers are black above, forming a black spot on each side.

THE INDIAN TEAL.

THE Indian teal is smaller than a duck, and the upper-part of the bill is longer than the lower. The bill and feet are of a beautiful red ; the top of the head, the upper-part of the neck,
and

and almost the whole of the back, are yellow; as well as the rump, which is spotted with large spots in the shape of an half-moon. The under part of the neck, the breast, and the belly are white; but the wings have a great variety of colours, in which the beauty of this bird principally consists; for the first feathers on the shoulders are of a faint rose-colour, marked with black spots in the shape of a half-moon; those that follow them are partly white and partly green; and the longest are all adorned with a beautiful shining blue. The tail is a mixture of green and blue, and the toes are destitute of membranes.

THE CHINESE TEAL.

THE Chinese teal has a green tuft, and the feathers are of a purple colour. It is beautifully variegated, and the feathers near the rump are placed in a very singular manner.

THE FULMAR.

THIS is generally an inhabitant of the isle of St. Kilda, where it makes its appearance

little Petrel



Fulmar





appearance in November, and continues the whole year, except September and October; it lays a large white egg; and the young are hatched about the middle of June. This bird is of great use to the islanders; it supplies them with oil for their lamps, down for their beds, a delicacy for their tables, a balsam for their wounds, and a medicine for their diseases. It is also a certain prognosticator of the change of the wind; if it comes to land, no west wind is expected for some time; and the contrary when it returns and keeps at sea.

The fulmar, like all the petrels, has a peculiar faculty of spouting from its bill, to a considerable distance, a large quantity of pure oil; which it does by way of defence, into the face of any one that attempts to take it: so that they are, for the sake of this panacea, seized by surprise; and this oil is subservient to the above-mentioned medical uses. Martin informs us that it has been used with success in London and Edinburgh in rheumatic cases. In the General Advertiser, June, 1761, is the following remarkable account from the isle of Mull. “A gentleman of
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the name of Campbell, being fowling among the rocks, and having mounted a ladder to take some birds out of their holes, was so surprised, by one of this species spurting a quantity of oil in his face, that he quitted his hold, fell down, and perished."

This bird is larger than the common gull; the bill is very strong, yellow, and hooked at the end. The nostrils are composed of two large tubes, lodged in one sheath; the head, neck, belly, and tail, are white; and the back and coverts of the wings ash-coloured; the quill-feathers are dusky; the legs yellowish. Instead of a back toe, it has only a sort of straight spur. The fulmar feeds on the blubber or fat of whales, &c. which, being soon convertible into oil, supplies them constantly with means of defence, as well as provision for their young, which they cast up into their mouths. They are likewise said to feed on sorrel, which they use to qualify the unctuous diet on which they subsist.

Frederic Martens, who saw vast numbers of these birds at Spitzbergen, observes, that they are very bold, and hover round the whale-fishers in great
flocks,

flocks, and that when a whale is taken, in spite of all endeavours, they will light on it and pick out large lumps of fat, when the animal is alive. Whales are often discovered at sea by the multitudes of these birds flying; and when a whale is wounded, prodigious multitudes immediately follow its bloody track. It is a voracious bird, eating till it is obliged to disgorge its food.

THE WATER-RAIL.

THE body of this bird is long and slender, with short concave wings. It is less fond of flying than running; which it does very swiftly along the edges of brooks covered with bushes: and as it runs, frequently flirts up its tail; in flying it hangs down its legs.

Its weight is four ounces and a half. The length of this bird to the end of the tail is twelve inches; the breadth sixteen inches, and the weight four ounces. The bill is slender, slightly incurvated, and one inch three quarters in length; the upper-chap is black, edged with red; the lower orange-coloured; and the irides red: the head, the hind-part of the neck, the back,
and

and coverts of the wings and tail are black, edged with an olive-brown; the base of the wing is white; the throat, breast, and belly, are ash-coloured; the sides under the wings are finely varied with black and white bars. The tail, which is very short, consists of twelve black feathers; and the ends of the two middle ones are tipped with rust-colour. The legs are of a dusky flesh-colour, placed far behind. The toes are very long.

THE KING-FISHER.

THE king-fisher seems to unite in itself somewhat of every class preceding. It has appetites for prey like the rapacious kinds, and an attachment to water like the birds of that element. It possesses the beautiful plumage of the peacock, the delicate shadings of the humming bird, the short legs of the swallow, and the bill of the crane.

This bird is somewhat larger than the swallow, and its shape is clumsy: the legs are very small, and the bill disproportionably long, being two inches from the base to the tip: the upper-chap is black, and the lower-chap yel-

low.

low. The inelegant form of this bird is fully atoned for by the beauty of its colours. The top of the head, and the coverts of the wings are of a deep blackish green, spotted with bright azure; the back and tail are of the most resplendent azure: the belly is orange-coloured, and a broad mark of the same colour extends from the bill to beyond the eyes, near which there is a large white spot. The tail, which is short, consists of twelve feathers of a rich deep blue, and the feet are of a reddish yellow.

This is one of the most rapacious little animals that skims the deep: it is continually in action, and feeds on fish, which it takes in surprizing quantities, considering its clumsy form and diminutive size. It chiefly frequents the banks of rivers, and, like the osprey, takes its prey by balancing itself at a certain distance above the water for a considerable space, and then, darting into the deep, seizes the fish with inevitable certainty. In a bright day, the plumage exhibits a beautiful variety of brilliant colours, while the bird remains suspended in the air. This extraordinary beauty has probably given

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rise to fable, for fancy is always willing to encrease the wonder, wherever there is any thing uncommon.

This species is the mute *halcyon* of Aristotle *, which he describes with unusual precision. After describing the bird, he gives a description of the nest, which appears as fabulous and extravagant as any of the stories which the most inventive of the ancients have delivered. He says it appeared like those concretions that are formed by the sea-water; that it resembled the long-necked gourd, was hollow within, with a very narrow entrance, and that if it overset, the water could not enter; that it resisted any violence from iron, but could be broke with a blow of the hand; and that it was composed of the bones of the sea-needle.

Part of this description, however, appears to be founded on truth. With regard to the form of the nest, his account exactly agrees with that which Zinanni has favoured us with. Nor are the materials which Aristotle says it was composed of entirely of his own invention: any one who has seen

* Hist. An. 892. 1050.

the nest of the king-fisher, must have observed that it was strewed with the bones and scales of fish ; the fragments of the food of the owner and its young : and those who will not admit it to be a bird that frequents the sea, must not confine their ideas to our northern shores ; but consider that those birds which inhabit a sheltered place in the more rigorous latitudes, may endure exposed ones in a milder climate. Aristotle's observations were made in the East ; and he admits that the *halcyon* sometimes ascended rivers. It is probable that this was in order to breed ; for Zinanni informs us, that in his soft climate, Italy, it breeds in May, on the banks of streams that are near the sea ; and, after the first hatch is reared, returns to lay a second time in the same place.

As this bird has been said to build her nest upon the sea, that she might not be interrupted in this task, she has been said to be possessed of a charm to lay the fury of the waves ; and the poets, indulging the powers of imagination, have dressed the story in all the robes of romance. The following Mr. Fawkes's translation of what

Theocritus has said upon the subject *.

May *halcyons* smoothe the waves, and calm the seas,
And the rough south-east sink into a breeze ;
Halcyons, of all the birds that haunt the main,
Most lov'd and honour'd by the Nereid train.

Both Aristotle and Pliny inform us that this bird is most common in the seas of Sicily : that it sits only a few days, and those in the depth of winter ; and that, during that period, the mariner may sail in full security : they were therefore stiled *halcyon* days ; and, in after times, those words expressed any season of prosperity.

The ancient poets are full of fables relative to this bird, nor are their historians exempt from them. Cicero has written a long poem in praise of the *halcyon*, of which only two lines are now remaining. These fables have even been adopted by St. Ambrose, one of the earliest fathers of the church. " Behold," says he, " the little bird which in the midst of the winter lays her eggs on the sand by the shore. From that moment the winds are hush-

* Theocrit. Idyl. vii. l. 57.

ed; the sea becomes smooth; and the calm continues for fourteen days. This is the time she requires; seven days to hatch, and seven days to foster her young. Their Creator has taught these little animals to make their nest in the midst of the most stormy season, only to manifest his kindness by granting them a lasting calm. The seamen are not ignorant of this blessing; they call this interval of fair weather their *bal-cyon* days; and they are particularly careful to seize the opportunity, as they need fear no interruption."

Innumerable instances might be produced of the credulity of mankind with respect to this bird; but the king-fisher, with which we are now acquainted, has none of those powers of allaying the storm, or building upon the waves: it is contented to make its nest on the banks of rivers, in such situations as not to be affected by the rising of the stream. When it has fixed upon a proper place, it makes with its bill a hole about a yard deep: sometimes it finds the deserted hole of a rat, or one caused by the root of a tree decaying, of which it takes quiet possession. It enlarges the hole towards the bottom,

lines it with the down of the willow, and, without any farther preparation, deposits its eggs there.

The nest of the king-fisher is very different from that described by the ancients, by whom it is said to be made in the shape of a long-necked gourd of the bones of the sea-needle. Plenty of bones and the scales of fishes are indeed found there; but these are only the remains of the bird's food, and not brought there either for the purposes of warmth or convenience. The king-fisher, as Bellonius observes, feeds upon fish, yet cannot digest their bones or scales, but throws them up again as eagles and owls are seen to do a part of their prey.

In these holes the female king-fisher is often found with from five eggs to nine; and if the nest be robbed, she will again return and lay there. "I have had," says Reaumur, "one of those females brought me, which was taken from her nest about three leagues from my house. After admiring the beauty of her colours, I let her fly again, when the fond creature was instantly seen to return back to the nest where she had just before been made captive

captive. There, joining the male, she again began to lay, though it was for the third time, and though the season was very far advanced. At each time she had seven eggs. The older the nest is, the greater quantity of fish-bones and scales does it contain: these are disposed without any order; and sometimes take up a good deal of room."

The king-fisher begins to lay early in the season, and produces her first brood about the beginning of April: the fidelity of the male exceeds even that of the turtle; and while the female is thus employed, he supplies her with large quantities of fish. At that season the hen, contrary to most other birds, is found plump and in good condition.

The modern vulgar have their fables concerning this bird as well as the ancients. It is an opinion generally received among them that the flesh of the king-fisher will not corrupt; and that vermin will not approach it. With equal foundation it is said, that when this bird is hung up dead, its breast is always pointing to the north. It is certain, however, that the flesh of this
bird

bird is utterly unfit to be eaten, though its beautiful plumage preserves its lustre longer than that of any other bird we know.

THE AMERICAN KING-FISHER.

WITH regard to the general form, this bird resembles the European king-fisher, as well as in the bill and feet; but its tail is longer in proportion. The bill is strong and blackish, except towards the base, where it is of a reddish flesh-colour. The head is of a lead-colour, inclining to blue; on the top of which there is a kind of crest formed of long loose pointed feathers. On each side of the head are two white spots; and the throat and under side of the neck are white. The breast is of a lead-colour. Six or seven of the prime quills are blackish, with small white spots on the outer-webs, which altogether form transverse lines of white. The rest of the quills have white tips, and the inner covert feathers of the wings are white, with a little mixture of orange-colour. The tail is of a pale lead-colour, the feathers of which are tipped and transversely marked

marked with narrow bars of white. The belly, the thighs, and the covert-feathers under the tail are white : the legs and feet are of a reddish-brown, and the claws dusky.

THE LITTLE GREEN AND ORANGE-COLOURED KING-FISHER.

THE length of this bird is about five inches from the tip of the bill to the end of the tail, which is longer in proportion than the common king-fisher. The bill is of a dusky colour, except that the lower-chap is reddish towards the base. The throat is of an orange-colour, and a mark of the same colour runs on each side from the base of the bill over the eyes. The head, the hind-part of the neck, the back, the tail, and covert-feathers of the wings are of a fine green ; and a bar of the same colour runs across the breast ; but the sides of the belly are of a bright reddish orange-colour. The lower part of the belly, the thighs, and the covert-feathers under the tail are white. The tail consists of twelve feathers, the two middle ones being a
little

little longer than the rest; and the inner webs are all spotted with white. The inner coverts and ridges of the wings are of a light orange, and the quills are dusky, spotted with a light clay-colour on the outer and inner-webs, except a few of the outer quills. The legs and feet are small; and the toes, which are of a flesh-colour, are connected like those of all other king-fishers.

THE KING-FISHER OF CATESBY.

THIS is about the size of a thrush, and is the largest of all those with short tails. The head is large in proportion, and full of feathers, forming an irregular tuft, and of a blue colour. It has a white line under the eyes, and a white spot on the forehead. The breast is white, variegated with streaks of red and blue. The quill-feathers of the wings are black, tipped with white. The lower-part of the belly is white, and the tail blue. It has three toes before, and one behind.

THE SMYRNA KING-FISHER.

THIS bird, which is three times as large as the common king-fisher, has a very long bill of a red colour, thick at the base, and sharp at the point. The iris of the eyes is white; the top of the head, the neck, the lower-part of the belly, and the thighs are brown. A broad white stripe runs across the breast into the scapular feathers of the wings. The back, wings, and tail, are of a fine deep green; and the legs and feet are of a beautiful red.

THE KING-FISHER OF THE RIVER GAMBIA.

THIS bird is almost as large as a heron, it has a long tail, and its wings are of a sea-green colour. The covert feathers are purple and blue, and the large feathers of the wings are of a dusky brown. The bill is red.

THE KING-FISHER OF BENGAL.

THIS is but little inferior to the heron in size, and its bill is three inches long,

long, of a fine scarlet colour, thick at the base, and sharp at the end. The iris of the eyes is of a fine yellow: the head, the upper-part of the neck, and the back are brown: the breast, the throat, and part of the belly are white, having five large brown spots on each side. The lower-part of the back, the wings, and the tail are of a fine bluish green, except the covert feathers of the wings, which are brown. The legs and toes are of an orange-colour, and very short.

The king-fisher of Surinam is principally distinguished by its forked tail, of which two feathers are longer than the rest.

THE SMALL KING-FISHER OF BENGAL.

THIS is about the size of the common king-fisher, and has a fine scarlet bill, pretty thick at the base. It has a yellow spot on the forehead, and a white spot under the throat. A broad black line runs from the bill quite round the eyes. It has a tuft on the head of a dirty reddish colour, and beneath is a dark blue line, separated from

from the back by a broad white stripe. The back and wings are of a dark blue, and the upper-part of the tail is red; but the belly, thighs, and the lower-part of the tail are of a beautiful yellow. The legs and feet are reddish.

THE QUURBATOS, OR FISHER.

THIS bird is not larger than a sparrow, and its plumage is finely variegated. The bill, which is as long as the whole body, is very strong and sharp, and on the inside is armed with small teeth, resembling those of a saw. These birds skim with great rapidity in the air and on the surface of the water; and they are so numerous on each side of the river Senegal, that they sometimes amount to several millions. Their nests are composed of earth, mixed with moss and feathers, and are of such curious workmanship that they are proof against the rains. We are informed by M. de Maire that these nests are made on palm-trees, and at the extremity of the most slender branches; where they hang by a reed or straw of about eighteen inches long, and the bottoms hang like balls in the air.

THE BEE-EATER.

THE form of this bird is like that of the king-fisher, and the size exceeds that of a black-bird. The bill resembles that of a king-fisher, except that it bends a little more downwards. The feet also are exactly like those of the king-fisher. The tongue is slender, rough towards the end, and jagged as if it had been torn. Some have eyes of a hazel colour, and others of a beautiful red. The head is large in proportion to the body, and the feathers at the base of the upper-chap are white, shaded with green and yellow. In some the back-part of the head is of a deep red, and in others there is a mixture of green and red. A streak of black passes from the corners of the bill along each side of the head, and extends beyond the eyes. On the upper part of the head the feathers are of a pale yellow: the belly, neck, and breast are of a bluish green, and in some the feathers of the shoulders are blue on the under-side, and in others green, with a mixture of red. The large green feathers are of an orange colour.

colour, with black tips, intermixed with some that are green. The tail, which is about three inches long, consists of twelve feathers; of which, two in the middle are considerably longer than the rest, and end in sharp points. The colour of the tail is blue in some, and green in others.

THE BEE-EATER OF BENGAL.

THIS is about the size of a blackbird. The bill is black, thick at the base, bending downward, and near two inches in length. The eyes are of a beautiful red; and on each side of the head a black streak extends from the corners of the bill to beyond the eyes; and near it, on the under-part of the head, the feathers are of a pale yellow. The feathers on the belly, back, and breast, are of a bluish green, and those on the shoulders in some are blue on the underside, and in others a mixture of red and green. The large wing feathers are approaching to an orange-colour, with black and green intermixed. The tail, which is upwards of three inches long, consists of twelve feathers, the two middle-

most of which are considerably longer than the rest. The colour of the tail is blue in some, and green in others,

OF THE EMIGRATION OF WATER-FOWL.

OF the vast variety of water-fowl that frequent this island, it is astonishing to reflect how few are known to breed here: the desire of a secure retreat urges them to leave this country more than the want of food. The bulk of those birds are too timid and shy for so populous a place; but those that breed in the almost inaccessible rocks that impend over the British seas, still continue to build and lay there in vast numbers, having little to fear from the approach of mankind.

The Heron.

The crested heron and the white heron only visit us at uncertain seasons; but the common heron and the bittern never leave us.

The Curlew.

The curlew sometimes breeds on our mountains, but the greater part retire to other countries.

The Woodcock.

Woodcocks breed in the moist woods of Sweden, and other cold countries.

The Snipe.

Snipes breed here sometimes, but the greatest part of them, and every other species of this genus, retire elsewhere.

The Lapwing.

The lapwing continues the whole winter in this island; the ruff breeds here, but retires in winter. The red-thank and sand-piper breed and reside here.

The Plover.

The green plover, the long-legged plover, and the sanderling visit us only in
K 3 winter.

winter. The dottrel appears in Spring and Autumn, but does not breed here. The sea-lark and the Norfolk plover breed in England,

The Water-Rail.

The water-rail, the water-hen, and every species of these two genera, continue with us the whole year.

The Coot.

The coot is a constant inhabitant of Great-Britain.

The Grebe.

The great crested grebe, the black and white grebe, and the little grebe, breed in this island, and never migrate; the others breed in Lapland, and only visit us occasionally.

The Avosetta.

The avosetta breeds in Jutland, and only visits our shores in the winter time.

The

The Penguin.

The penguin or great auk sometimes breeds in St. Kilda. During Summer, the auk, the guillemot, and puffin inhabit our maritime cliffs in great numbers. The black guillemot breeds in St. Kilda, in the Bass isle, and in Llandidno rocks.

The Diver.

The divers breed chiefly in the lakes of Sweden and Lapland.

The Gull.

Every species of the gull breeds in the British isles, except the skina and black toed gull, which inhabit the Ferroe isles, Norway, and Iceland, and only visit our country occasionally.

The Fulmar.

The fulmar breeds in the isle of St. Kilda, where it continues the whole year, except September and part of October,

The

The Duck.

Of the numerous species of the duck kind, we know of no more than five that breed here, viz. the tame swan, and tame goose, the shield-duck, the eider duck, and a very small portion of the wild ducks. The rest contribute to form that amazing multitude of water-fowl that annually visit the woods and lakes of Lapland, Norway, Sweden, &c.

The Cormorant.

The cormorant and shag breed on our high rocks; and remain on our shores the whole year. The gannet breeds in some of the Scotch isles, and visits our seas in pursuit of the herring and pilchard.

OF THE MIGRATION OF OTHER
BRITISH BIRDS.

IT is to be lamented that none, except two northern naturalists, Mr. Klein and Mr. Eckmarck, have professedly

feſſedly treated on the migration of birds. We cannot, however, omit our acknowledgments to two eminent pens who have treated this ſubject as far as it related to rural œconomy ; and in ſuch a manner as to do honour to their reſpective countries : Mr. Alex. Mal. Berger, and Mr. Stillingfleet are the gentlemen we mean.

We wiſh we could induce others of our countrymen to follow their example : the matter can never be exhausted, as every country will furniſh new obſervations ; each of which, when compared, will ſerve to ſtrengthen and confirm the other.

Of the Hawk.

All the ignoble ſpecies of this genus breed in Great-Britain : of the falcons, we only know that which is called the peregrine, which annually builds its neſt in the rocks of Llandidno, Caernarvonſhire.

Of the Owl.

Every ſpecies breeds in this country, except the ſhort-eared owl, and the little

little owl, and it is not certainly known that those do not. Hawks and owls being birds of prey, have the means of living here at all times, and therefore are not obliged to change their place of abode.

The Butcher-Bird.

The red-backed butcher-bird breeds with us; but it is probable the others migrate, as we have not heard of them.

The Crow.

The Royston crow migrates regularly with the woodcock. It breeds in Sweden and Austria; but it appears very extraordinary that a bird should leave us, whose food is such that it may be found at all seasons in this country.

The Woodpecker.

Woodpeckers continue with us the whole year, their food being to be obtained at all times in the bark of trees.

The

The Wryneck.

THIS bird disappears before winter, and revisits us in the Spring, a little earlier than the cuckoo. If it feeds only on ants, as several have asserted, the cause of its migration is very evident.

The Cuckoo.

This bird disappears early in Autumn; its retreat is entirely unknown to us.

The Nuthatch.

This bird continues in Great-Britain the whole year.

The Chough.

As the diet of this bird is corn and insects, it is a constant inhabitant of Great-Britain.

The

The Grouse.

The whole of this tribe, except the quail, continues here the year round. The quail either leaves us entirely, or retires towards the sea-coasts.

The Bustard.

This continues with us all the year, and inhabits our downs and their vicinities.

The Ring-Dove.

Many of these birds breed here; but the multitude that appears in the winter, is so disproportioned to what continue here the whole year, as to be a convincing proof that the greatest part quit the country in the Spring. Perhaps they go to Sweden to breed, and return from thence in Autumn. Mr. Ekmark says they entirely quit that country before winter. The turtle either leaves us in the winter, or changes its place, and retires to the southern counties.

The Thrush kind,

The red-wing and the fieldfare breed in Norway and other cold countries, where they pass their summers: they feed upon berries, which are found in great plenty in these kingdoms, and tempt them to visit us in the winter. The fieldfare, red-wing, and the Royston crow, are the only land-birds that constantly and regularly migrate into this island, and do not breed here.

The Stare.

The stare breeds in this island; though it is probable that many of them remove to other countries for that purpose; for the produce of those that continue here, seems unequal to the vast multitudes of them that appear in winter. Possibly many of them migrate into Sweden.

The Swallow.

At the approach of winter every species disappears.

Slender-billed small Birds.

Though all these feed on worms and insects, yet only part of them leave these kingdoms. The nightingale, the black-cap, the fly-catcher, the willow-wren, the wheat-ear, the whinchat, the white-throat, and the stone-chat-ter, leave us before winter; while the small and delicate golden-crested wren braves our severest frosts. It is probable that Spain, or the south of France, is their winter asylum; as they are incapable of very distant flights.

The Grosbeak and Crossbill.

These birds breed in Austria, and seldom visit this island.

The Finches.

All finches feed on the seed of plants, and all continue in some parts of these kingdoms, except theiskin, which is said to come from Russia, and is only an irregular visitant. The linnets shift their quarters, breeding in one part

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of this island, and remove with their young to others.

Buntings.

All the genus inhabit this island throughout the year, except the greater brambling, which, in very severe seasons, is forced here from the north.

Tit-Mice.

They feed on insects, and continue the whole year in this country.

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GLOSSARY,

Explaining some TECHNICAL TERMS
used by NATURAL HISTORIANS.

ANNULATED : marked with
rings.

Caruncula : a fleshy excrescence, like a
wen. *Lin. syst. p. 73, 75, 92.*

Cinereous : the colour of wood-ashes.

Coma : a bush of hair on the head ;
sometimes at the tip of the ear.
Lyn. syst. p. 36, &c.

Compedes : fetters or shackles : applied
to whales and amphibious animals,
which instead of feet, properly so
called, have a kind of finny tail.
Lin. syst. p. 25, 49, 56.

Concolor : of the same colour with the
body : spoken of the tail.

Crested : wearing a tuft or plume on the head : see n. 126.—Applied by Linnæus, p. 55. to the skin on the forehead of the sea-lion : and p. 73, and 75. to hairs on the nostrils.

Digitated : a subdivision of the class Mammalia, comprehending those which have the feet divided into toes, furnished usually with claws.

Fastigate : sharp at the end like a pyramid : spoken of a beard. *Lin. syst.* p. 38.

Ferruginous : the colour of rusty iron.

Floccose : tufted : spoken of the tail, which in some animals is terminated by a tuft of hairs. *Lin. syst.* p. 36, 60, 85.

Height : the measure from the base whereon the animal stands, to the top of the shoulders ; taken by a line perpendicular to the horizon.—In apes which go erect, the height is measured from the ground to the top of the head.

Helvölus : pale red or tawny. *Lin. syst.* p. 60.

Incumbent : lying one over the other.

Jubate :

Jubate

Lengit

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Mutic

Mystac

Nictita

Ocelli

Palmae

79

Subate : cloathed with long hairs like a horse's mane : spoken of the tail or breast. *Lin. syst. p. 52, 60, 98, 99.*

Length : the measure from the tip of the nose to the origin of the tail.

Mammalia : animals which have paps, and suckle their young. The name of the first class of animals in the System of Linnæus : comprehending, besides some others, all those which we usually call Beasts or Quadrupeds.

Muticus : spoken of a toe which has no claw. *Lin. syst. p. 72, &c.*

Mystaces : whiskers : stiff hairs about the mouth ; sometimes on other parts. *Lin. syst. p. 58, 63, 66, 74, 81, 84, 87, 88.*

Nictitating membrane : a skin that covers the eye, or may be withdrawn at the pleasure of the animal. *Lin. syst. p. 56, 69.*

Ocelli : small spots, with a ring of the same colour surrounding them at some distance. *Lin. syst. p. 61.*

Palmae : the fore-feet. *Lin. syst. p. 76, 79, &c.*

Palmated :

Palmated : when spoken of horns, means that they are divided like a hand with the fingers spread : when spoken of feet, it means that they are webbed, or have the toes connected by a membrane, like those of water-fowl. *Lin. syst. p. 46, 66.*—See Gen. 39, 40.

Plantæ : the hind-feet. *Lin. syst. p. 76, 79, &c.*

Prehensile : spoken of a tail, which in some animals is so long and pliant, as to perform the office of a hand, in taking hold. *Lin. syst. p. 37, &c.*—Applied also to the *proboscis* or trunk of an elephant.

Primates : chiefs of the creation : the name of the first order of Mammalia in Linnæus's System.—The names of Linnæus's orders are preserved ; because it was difficult either to translate them, or to substitute better in their room.

Retractile : a term applied to the claws of the cat kind ; because they lie in sheaths, to be exerted at pleasure.

Subulated : long, narrow, bent, pointed ; shaped like a cobbler's awl : spoken of claws.

Teeth :

Teeth

Toes :

Tophus

Trunca

Verruc

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Teeth : are of three sorts. 1. *Primores*, cutting or fore-teeth. 2. *Laniarii*, canine or eye-teeth. 3. *Molares*, or grinders.—The number of teeth is for brevity sake usually expressed by two figures, the first signifying the number in the upper-jaw, and the second in the lower. Thus cutting teeth 4—4 signifies, that the animal has 4 cutting teeth in the upper-jaw, and 4 also in the lower.

Toes : the number is expressed by two figures ; the first giving the number in the fore-feet, the second in the hind.

Tophus : the bunch on the camel's back : applied to bunches of the same kind on other parts.

Truncated : so blunt as to seem cut off.

Verruca : a wart.

Vibrissæ : hairs on the nostrils, on the eye-lids, or about the mouth.

Lin. syst. p. 35, 44, 56, 68, 72, 85.

Uncinated : hooked. *Lin. syst.* p. 95.

EXPLANATION
OF SOME
TECHNICAL TERMS
IN
ORNITHOLOGY
Used by NATURALISTS.

BASTARD-WING : a small joint rising at the end of the middle-part of the wing, or the *cubitus* : on which are three or five feathers.

Capistrum : a word used by Linnæus to express the short feathers on the forehead just above the bill. In crows these fall forward over the nostrils.

Cere : the naked skin that covers the base of the bill in the hawk kind.

Coverts of the tail : those feathers which cover the base of the tail.

Emarginatum :

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TECHNICAL TERMS *explained.* 119

Emarginatum: a bill is called *rostrum emarginatum*, when there is a small notch near the end: this is conspicuous in that of butcher-birds and thrushes.

Greater coverts of the wings: the feathers that lie immediately over the quill-feathers and secondary feathers.

Lesser coverts of the wings: the small feathers that lie in several rows on the bones of the wings.—The *under coverts* are those that line the inside of the wings.

Lorum: the space between the bill and the eye, generally covered with feathers, but in some birds naked, as in the black and white grebe.

Nucha: the hind-part of the head.

Orbita: the skin that surrounds the eye, which is generally bare, particularly in the heron and parrot.

Pes scanorius: the foot of the woodpecker formed for climbing.

Pes tridactylus: spoken of a foot that wants the back-toe.

Quill-feathers: the largest feathers of the wings, or those that rise from the first bone.

Secondary

120 TECHNICAL TERMS explained.

Secondary feathers : those that rise from the second bone.

Scapular feathers : those that rise from the shoulders and cover the sides of the back.

Semi-palmated : spoken of a foot, the webs of which only reach half-way of the toes.

Vent-feathers : those that lie from the vent to the tail. *Crissum Linnæi*.

THE END OF VOL. VIII.



INDEX.

I N D E X

TO THE

NATURAL HISTORY

OF

B I R D S,

A.

ICUROS, a large kind of parrot in Brasil—instance of its sagacity and docility vol. ii. page 106, 107
batrois, a bird of the gull kind—one of the most formidable of the aquatic tribe, iv. 17—it has a peculiar affection for the penguin iv. 18

M

Anbima,

Anlima, a bird of the crane kind—the extraordinary fidelity of the cock and hen, iii. 136—when one dies, the other flays by it, and dies by its side, vol. iii.

page 136

Arraracarga

ii. 126

Auk

iv. 31

Avosetta, or Scooper—singular form of its bill

iii. 162

B.

Barnacle, iv. 47—naturally very wild and shy

iv. 48

Bee-Eater, described

iv. 98

— of Bengal

iv. 99

Bittern, iii. 149—its food, and number of eggs, iii. 151—names given to this bird by the Greeks and Latins, *ibid.*—in the north of England it is called the mire-drum

iii. 151

— North-American

ibid.

— Small

ibid.

— Little, of Brasil

iii. 151

Black-Bird frequents hedges and thickets—builds a very ingenious nest, ii. 177—is the deepest toned warbler of the wood—in cold countries, and particularly upon the Alps, it is sometimes seen all over white, ii. 178—it is of a retired and solitary nature

ii. 178

Black

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- Black-Cap*, called in Norfolk the mock-nightingale, iii. 62—it is a bird of passage vol. iii. page 62
- Blue-Bird*, its residence—it is a very docile and diligent bird ii. 179
- Brambling* iii. 99
- Brent-Goose*, iv. 49—its principal food is a kind of long grass growing in the water, ibid.
- Buffoon-Bird*, or Numidian crane iii. 132
- Bull-Finch*, a very docile bird, iii. 83—a gentleman in Lancashire had one that could whistle several tunes, &c.—its description, iii. 84, 85—directions for rearing bull-finches iii. 86
- Bunting*, iii. 106—larger than the common lark ibid.
- Bustard*, the largest land bird that is a native of Britain, ii. 22—places where they are frequently seen in flocks of fifty or more, ii. 23—their food—the males have a pouch, which will contain near seven quarts of water, ii. 24—the bustard inhabits the open and extensive plains, ii. 23—lives about fifteen years ii. 25
- Indian ibid.
- Little ii. 27
- Dutcher-Bird*, Greater—its food—it leads a life of continual combat, i. 133—intrepidity of this little creature in engaging with the pie, the crow, and the kestrel, all considerably larger than itself—the most

most redoubtable birds of prey are on friendly terms with the butcher-bird, i. 134—it flies in company with all the rapacious birds—when it has killed a bird or insect, it fixes them upon some thorn, and then pulls them to pieces with its bill—called by the Germans wurchangel, i. 135—the number and colour of their eggs—formation of the nest, i. 136—manner of flying—description of this bird

vol. i. page 137

Butcher-bird, Red-backed i. 138

————— *Least* i. 140

Buzzard, Common, a sluggish inactive bird, sometimes remains whole days together perched on the same bough, i. 120—lives more upon frogs, mice, and insects, than upon birds, which he is obliged to follow—its summer food—if the hen buzzard should happen to be killed, the cock will hatch and bring up the young, i. 121—its description i. 122

————— *Honey* i. 123

————— *Turkey* i. 124

————— *Moor*, makes great havock among rabbits, young wild ducks, and other water-fowl i. 125

C.

Galao, or horned Indian raven

ii. 60

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I N D E X.

v

Canary-Bird, came originally from the Canary islands, iii. 38—it is one of the finch tribe—directions for choosing a Canary-bird, iii. 40, 41—these birds are sometimes so prolific, that the female will be ready to hatch a second brood, before the first are able to quit the nest—food that the old ones must be supplied with, when the young are produced,

vol. iii. page 43

Carriers, a kind of pigeons employed to convey letters, ii. 149—in an hour and a half they can perform a journey of forty miles, ii. 150—use made of them at Tyburn, ii. 151—description of the carrier ii. 149

Cassowary described, i. 52, 53—it has the head of a warrior, the eye of a lion, the defence of a porcupine, and the fleetness of a courser—it is a gentle inoffensive animal, i. 55—how it defends itself, *ibid.*—its manner of going remarkably singular—the Dutch assert that it devours glass, iron, stones, and even burning coals, without the least injury—the largest of its eggs are about fifteen inches round one way, and twelve the other, i. 56—places where this animal is found, i.

56, 57

Chaffinch, iii. 97—lays four or five eggs of a whitish colour, tinged and spotted with deep purple *ibid.*

- Chatterer* vol. ii. page 69
Chough, Cornish—places where it is found, ii. 63, 64
Cock, of all birds, seems to have been first reclaimed from the forest, i. 160—the cock came first into the western world from Persia—called by Aristophanes the Persian bird—it was one of the forbidden foods among the ancient Britons—countries where it is wild, i. 161, 162—its peculiarities in a wild state, i. 162—the Athenians had their cock-matches—no animal more courageous than the cock, when opposed to his own species—in India, China, &c. cock-fighting is the sport and amusement even of princes, i. 163—the extraordinary courage of the cock supposed to proceed from his being the most salacious of all birds—in three or four years he becomes unfit for the purposes of impregnation, i. 164—the cock was sacred to Minerva i. 172
 — Bantam ibid.
 — Hamburgh i. 173
Cock of the Wood, ii. 27—places which it inhabits—its food—its description, ii. 28, 29
 — Black, also called the heath-cock, and black game ii. 31
Cockatoo ii. 127
Cole-Mouse, or black Tit-Mouse iii. 112

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Condor, i. 81—is a native of South-America—one killed by Capt. Strong was sixteen feet from wing to wing extended, i. 82—their beak is strong enough to tear off the hide, and rip up the bowels of an ox—two of them will devour a cow or a bull—they have been often known to assault boys, and eat them, i. 83—the Indians assert that they will carry off a deer or a young calf in their talons—fortunately there are but few of the species, i. 84—circumstantial account of this bird, i. 87 to 89—it chiefly inhabits the deserts of Pachomac vol. i. page 90

Coot, described, iii. 173—its residence, iii.

174

Cormorant described, iv. 19—it is remarkably voracious—has the most disagreeable smell of any bird—its voice hoarse and croaking iv. 20

Crane, described, iii. 123—it is a social bird, and seldom seen alone—subsists chiefly on vegetables—it is a bird of passage, iii. 125—cranes were formerly known in this island, and held in great estimation for the delicacy of their flesh, iii. 126—they are now considered all over Europe as wretched eating, iii. 127 their note is remarkably loud; and its peculiar clangor arises from the extraordinary length and contortion of the windpipe, iii. 128—corn is their favourite food—

- food—a crane is sometimes pursued and disabled by a little falcon—it is easily tamed ; and, according to Albertus Magnus, has a particular affection for man—one kept tame for above forty years, iii. 130—in some countries it is considered as an heinous offence to kill a crane, vol. iii. page 131
- Balearic, iii. 131—its food and habitation iii. 132
- Numidian, called by our sailors the buffoon-bird, and by the French *demeiselle*, iii. 132—its peculiar gestures and contortions, iii. 133—description of this bird, *ibid.*
- Hooping, iii. 134—thought to be a bird of passage iii. 135
- Croft-bill*, iii. 82—its food, *ibid.*—it is an inconstant visitant of this island, iii. 82
- Crow*, ii. 55—will pick out the eyes of young lambs when they are just dropped, ii. 56
- Royfton ii. 61
- Cuckoo*—fables invented of this bird, now sufficiently refuted—its description, ii. 94—its note pleasant, though uniform, ii. 96—the cuckoo is naturally weak and timid ii. 98
- Curlew*, iii. 163—its flesh very rank and fishy *ibid.*

*Curlew**Diver,**Dodo—*

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Curlew, Lesser, also called the wimbrel,
vol. iii. page 164

D.

Diver, Great Northern iv. 31

—— Grey speckled ibid.

Dodo—its description, i. 58—it is equally incapable of flight or defence—a native of the isle of France—the Dutch, who first discovered it there, called it the nauseous bird—succeeding travellers assert that its flesh is good and wholesome eating—three or four dodos are sufficient to dine an hundred sailors i. 59

Duck, tame, the most easily reared of any of our domestic animals, iv. 52—duck eggs often laid under a hen—there are ten different varieties of the tame duck, iv. 53—the most obvious distinction between wild and tame ducks iv. 54

—— Eider iv. 56

—— Wild, iv. 58—Briffon reckons above twenty varieties, iv. 54—wild ducks, flying in the air, often lured down from their heights by the loud voice of the mallard from below, iv. 60—where they build their nests, iv. 58—their aukward nests are frequently seen exalted on the tops of trees iv. 59

Duck,

<i>Duck</i> , velvet	vol. iv. page 63
— tufted	iv. 65
— scaup	ibid.
— pintail	iv. 68
— grey-headed, iv. 70—suspected to be the Glaucion of authors, ibid.—its de- scription	iv. 71
— white-bellied, of Jamaica	iv. 75
— Barbary	iv. 76
— Madagascar	iv. 77
— Bahama	iv. 78
<i>Dun-diver</i> , or female goosander	iv. 63

E.

Eagle, Golden, the largest and noblest of the eagle kind—its description, i. 60—
—the eagle considered among birds, as the lion among quadrupeds, i. 61—in-
finite art and patience required to tame it, i. 62—a poor man got a comfortable
subsistence for his family, during a sum-
mer of famine, out of an eagle's nest, by
robbing the eaglets of food, i. 63—a
peasant was killed by eagles whose nest he
had robbed—there is a law in the Orkney
islands, which obliges the master of every
house in the parish where an eagle is
killed, to give the person who destroyed
it a hen—the eagle flies the highest of all
animals; and from thence the ancients
have

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Heav
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crane
i. 65
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Eagle,
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—
—
—
—
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Egret,
lengt
often
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foun
lays
amon

have given him the epithet of the bird of Heaven, i. 64—it lives a century—its great voracity—it carries off hens, geese, cranes, rabbits, hares, lambs, and kids, i. 65—it devours fishes, i. 66—the reason why eagles can look stedfastly at the sun, i. 67, 68—instances of their gratitude, i. 69—the nest of the eagle is usually built in the most inaccessible cliff of the rock—an eagle endured hunger for twenty-two days, without any sustenance whatever vol. i. page 70

- Eagle*, Bald i. 71
 — Ring-tail, also called the white-tailed eagle i. 72
 — Sea, i. 73—it feeds principally on fish i. 74
 — Black i. 75
 — Crowned i. 77
 — Common i. 79
 — White i. 80
 — Rough-footed ibid.
 — Brazilian ibid.
 — Oroonoko ibid.
 — Pondicherry i. 81

Egret, or great white heron, iii. 148—its length, breadth, and weight—it is not often seen in England iii. 148

Eider-Duck, iv. 56—this useful species is found in the Western Isles of Scotland—lays from six to eight eggs—makes its nest among the rocks or plants on the sea-shore,

shore, iv. 56—the inside lining of the nest is the warmest, softest, and lightest substance that can be imagined—this is no other than the down produced from the breast of the bird in the breeding-season

vol. iv. 57

Emu, also called the American ostrich—places where it is found—it is second in magnitude to the ostrich, i. 50—its description—it moves with such swiftness, that the fleetest dogs are thrown out in the pursuit, i. 51—the flesh is good for food—they live entirely upon grass, according to Narborough

i. 52

Erne, a kind of eagle

i. 80

F.

Falcon, i. 102.—among the Welch, the king's falconer was the fourth officer in the state, i. 103—in the reign of James I. Sir Thomas Monson gave a thousand pounds for a cast of hawks—by statute of king Edward III. it was made felony to steal a hawk—falconry was in such high esteem among the great all over Europe, that Frederic, emperor of Germany, thought it no indignity to write a treatise upon that diversion, i. 104—the hawk may be taught to fly at any game whatever

i. 106

Fal. on,

Falcon, C

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

Fieldfare,

179—f

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Flamingo,

158—t

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Fly-catcher,

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fulmar

whales

birds, v

on it,

even wh

I N D E X. xiii

- Falcon*, Gyr vol. i. page 108
 — Peregrine ibid.
 — Mountain i. 110
 — Grey i. 111
 — Gentle i. 112
 — White i. 114
 — Tunis, or Barbary i. 115
Fieldfare, a bird of the sparrow-kind, ii.
 179—flocks of these birds visit our islands
 about Michaelmas, and leave us about
 the beginning of March ibid.
Flamingo, iii. 157—its description, iii.
 158—they always go in flocks—formation
 of their nests, iii. 161—they build in ex-
 tensive unfrequented marshes ibid.
Fly-catcher, iii. 63—frequents low hedges,
 particularly in gardens ibid.
 — blue, iii. 64—a native of Ame-
 rica, and probably a bird of passage ibid.
Fulmar, inhabits the isle of St. Kilda, iv.
 80—it supplies the islanders with oil for
 their lamps, down for their beds, a de-
 licacy for their tables, a balsam for their
 wounds, and a medicine for their diseases
 —it is also a certain prognosticator of the
 change of the wind—remarkable account
 from the isle of Mull, iv. 81, 82—the
 fulmar feeds on the blubber or fat of
 whales; also on sorrel, iv. 82—these
 birds, when a whale is taken, will light
 on it, and pick out large lumps of fat,
 even when the animal is alive—the fulmar

is a very voracious bird, eating till it is obliged to disgorge its food, vol. iv. page 83

G.

- Gadwall* iv. 72
Gannet, or Soland Goose, described, iv. 21—subsists entirely on fish—places where it dwells, iv. 22—it is a bird of passage, iv. 23—manner of taking them at sea iv. 24
Garganey iv. 73
Gout-sucker, a bird of the swallow tribe—its food, iii. 60—it is a bird of passage—feeds on moths, gnats, and chafers iii. 60
Godwit, iii. 166—feeds on insects, iii. 167
 ——— red ibid.
 ——— lesser, ibid.—weighs about nine ounces ibid.
 ——— great American ibid.
 ——— white North-American iii. 168
Golden-eye, iv. 66—frequents fresh water, as well as the sea—these birds are found during winter in Shropshire meres, iv. 67
Goldfinch, iii. 93—frequently builds in an apple or pear-tree, iii. 94—it is a long-lived bird, iii. 96—the nest is small, but extremely beautiful—this bird lays five or six white eggs, iii. 94—in some parts of

Engl
 ters—
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Goosander times
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Goose, iv. are cor
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 iv. 44-
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 iv. 43 -
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 there, a
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 need ver
 44—the
 eggs—a

England goldfinches are called draw-waters—they are much delighted with viewing themselves in a looking-glass, iii. 95—towards winter they assemble in flocks—their note is very sweet, and they are much esteemed on that account, vol. iii.

page 96

— American

ibid.

Goosander, lives on fish, iv. 62—female sometimes called the dun-diver, iv. 63—the goosander is an excellent diver, iv. 62—its description

ibid.

Goose, iv. 40—most of our beds in Europe are composed of goose-feathers, iv. 43—the largest geese are reckoned the best, iv. 44—one gander is sufficient for five geese, iv. 45—when the young are excluded, the pride of the gander is inconceivable, iv. 42—vast quantities of tame geese are kept in the fens in Lincolnshire, which are plucked once or twice a year, iv. 43—the use of goose-feathers is utterly unknown in the countries bordering upon the Levant, and in all Asia, ibid.—old feathers are much more valuable than new; and why—geese are very profitable to the farmer for their flesh, their feathers, and their grease—they will live upon commons or any sort of pastures—need very little care or attendance, iv. 44—they usually lay twelve or sixteen eggs—a goose sits thirty days—method

N 2

of

of fattening green-geese, iv. 45—geese will fatten well with carrots cut small and given them, iv. 46—a goose frequently known to lay upwards of twenty eggs, vol. iv. page 41

Goose, wild, supposed to breed in the retired parts of the north of Europe—they are often seen in flocks from fifty to an hundred, flying at very great heights, and preserving great regularity in their motion, iv. 40—their cry is frequently heard when they are at an imperceptible distance above us—the wild goose, and many other varieties, agree in one common character of feeding upon vegetables

- Soland iv. 4
- white-fronted wild iv. 2
- Brent, iv. 49—its principal food, ibid iv. 4
- Canada iv. 5
- blue-winged ibid
- Muscovy, iv. 51—a curious large fowl—its description ibid
- mountain, of the Cape of Good Hope, iv. 52—its food ibid
- water—its flesh is said to be very good iv. 5

Goshawk, i. 116—much esteemed among falconers, and taught principally to pursue cranes, geese, pheasants, and partridges i. 11

Grebe, almost on land the flocks
— l
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its fo
is not
in ha
in Ita

Bah
Grouse, game, its food tops of
Guillemot
Guinea-f
it, ii.
Afric

Gri

- Grebe*, iii. 175—it preys upon fish, and is almost perpetually diving—never appears on land, iii. 176—principally valued for the skin of its breast vol. iii. page 176
 — lesser crested ibid.
 — white and dusky, iii. 177—frequently seen in Lincolnshire iii. 178
 — little, iii. 178—formation of its nest, iii. 179
Green-finch, iii. 91—the female lays five or six eggs iii. 92
Green-shank, iii. 168—its description, ibid.
 —these birds appear in winter, in small flocks, on our coasts and wet grounds, ibid.
Grosbeak, also called a hawfinch, iii. 80—its food—number of its eggs, iii. 81—it is not regularly migrant, visiting us only in hard winters—these birds are common in Italy and Germany iii. 81
 — Gambia ibid.
 — Purple, iii. 82—a native of the Bahama islands ibid.
Grouse, also called the moor-cock, or red game, ii. 32—lays from six to ten eggs—its food is the mountain berries, and the tops of heath ii. 33
Guillemot iv. 32
Guinea-ben, ii. 20—different names given to it, ii. 20, 21—it came originally from Africa ii. 20

- Gull*, iv. 24—where it builds, vol. iv.
page 26
Gyr-falcon i. 108

H.

- Halcyon*—Cicero has written a long poem in praise of this bird, of which only two lines are now remaining, iv. 88. See *King-fisher*.
Harfang, or Great Hudson's-Bay Owl, i. 154
Hawfinch, or Grosbeak, iii. 80—its number of eggs, iii. 81—they feed on berries, and even on the kernels of the strongest stones ibid.
Hawk, i. 102. See *Falcon*.
Hedge-Sparrow, iii. 64—lays four or five eggs, of a fine pale blue colour, iii. 65—it ought to be more esteemed as it has a variety of agreeable notes, ibid.—it is often kept in cages ibid.
Helmet, a kind of pigeon ii. 157
Hen, seldom clutches a brood of chickens above once a season—a domestic hen will lay upwards of two hundred eggs a year, when properly supplied with food and water, i. 164—left to herself, would seldom lay above twenty eggs without attempting to hatch them—in the wild state, seldom produces more than fifteen eggs.

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iii.
food,
ing—
—ana
differ

eggs, i. 166—particularities of incubation, i. 167—best age to set a hen for chickens vol. i. page 171

— Bantam i. 173

Hen, Guinea, or Pintada, ii. 20—different names given to this bird, ii. 20, 21—it came originally from Africa, ii. 20—they are kept in this country rather for shew than use, ii. 21—great attention is required in rearing them ibid.

Hen of the Wood, its description ii. 29

Hen-Harrier, i. 126—the female is called the ring-tail ibid.

Heron—Brissot has enumerated forty seven sorts of this tribe—they are excessively voracious and destructive; but they never grow fat, iii. 144—they are so cowardly as to fly at the approach of a sparrowhawk, iii. 145—its food is fish and frogs, but it is capable of enduring a long abstinence, ibid.—a single heron, says Willoughby, will destroy fifteen thousand carp in half a year—it takes its prey by wading into the water, and not by swimming, ibid.—places where it builds, iii. 146—formerly much esteemed as food, but now thought detestable eating—said to be very long-lived, iii. 147—anatomical distinction in which herons differ from all other birds iii. 144

Heron,

- Heron*, Crested, iii. 147—this is an elegant species vol. iii. page 147
 — great white, or Egret iii. 148
 — lesser white ibid.
 — little white, of Catesby ibid.
 — yellow and green iii. 149
Hobby, a bird used in the humbler kind of falconry—its description i. 128
Howlet i. 154
Humming-Bird, the least of birds, iii. 115—the smallest of this class is about the size of a hazel-nut, iii. 116—the head is small, with very little sparkling black eyes, ibid.—the nest is worthy of admiration, it being suspended in the air at the point of the twigs of a tree; the male furnishes materials, and the female is the architect, iii. 117—the plumage of the humming-bird formerly used by the Indians to adorn their head-dress and belts, but they now sell it at a high price, iii. 118—varieties of this bird, iii. 119

J.

- Jabiru*, a bird of the crane kind, iii. 135
Jabiru-guacu, a bird of the crane kind, ibid.—it is a native of Brasil ibid.
Jack-daw—its food, ii. 64—it is ingenious, crafty, docile, and loquacious, ibid.—breeds

- breeds in England, and many other countries of Europe vol. ii. page 64
- Jay*, one of the most beautiful of the British birds—its description, ii. 68—it will sometimes kill small birds, ii. 69—their native note very disagreeable, but they may be taught to imitate the human voice ibid.
- blue, ii. 70—inhabits Carolina, ii. 71
- Bengal ibid.
- Jean le Blanc*, a kind of eagle i. 80
- Judcock*, iii. 170—also called the jack-snipe—its weight does not exceed two ounces, ibid.—it is very difficult to be found iii. 171

K.

- Kestrel*, also called the stannel and the wind-hover, i. 126—places where it breeds—its food i. 127
- King-fisher*, somewhat larger than the swallow, iv. 84—it is a most rapacious little animal, and feeds on fish—chiefly frequents the banks of rivers—manner of taking its prey, iv. 85—Aristotle's description of the nest, iv. 86—this bird is most common in the seas of Sicily, iv. 88—credulity of St. Ambrose concerning

cerning it, iv. 88, 89—the nest of the king-fisher very different from that described by the ancients—if the nest is robbed, the female will again return and lay there—Reaumur's account of this circumstance, iv. 90, 91—the fidelity of the male exceeds even that of the turtle—fables of the modern vulgar concerning this bird, iv. 91—its flesh unfit to be eaten vol. iv. page 92

- American ibid.
- little green and orange-coloured, iv. 93
- of Catsby iv. 94
- Smyrna iv. 95
- of the river Gambia ibid.
- of Bengal ibid.
- of Surinam iv. 96
- small, of Bengal ibid.

Kite, i. 117—it lives chiefly upon accidental carnage; as almost every bird in the air is able to escape it—when it perceives a small bird wounded, or a straying chicken, it destroys them without mercy, i. 118—it usually breeds in large forests or woody mountainous countries—its description i. 119, 120

L.

Lanner

i. 115

Lark, Sky, iii. 27—this and the wood-lark the

the
num
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Linnet,
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the only birds that sing as they fly—the number of its eggs, iii. 28—their song forsakes them in winter, *ibid.*—its description, iii. 29—in winter they grow very fat, assemble in large flocks, and are taken in great numbers by the bird-catchers vol. iii. page 28

Lark, Wood, *ibid.*—its food, and number of eggs, iii. 31—some prefer the singing of the wood-lark to that of the nightingale, *ibid.*—in its wild state it feeds on beetles, caterpillars, and other insects, *ibid.*

— white, iii. 32—like the sky-lark it never perches upon trees *ibid.*

— tit, iii. 32—it has a remarkable fine note resembling that of a Canary-bird, and has an elegant slender shape *ibid.*

— crested iii. 33

— lesser crested, iii. 34—very numerous in Yorkshire *ibid.*

— lesser field *ibid.*

— red iii. 35

— black, iii. 36—this bird is rarely seen in England *ibid.*

— grasshopper iii. 36

— willow, iii. 37—it is annually seen in Flintshire *ibid.*

— pipit iii. 38

Linnet, described, iii. 101—derivation of the name, iii. 102—much esteemed for its song, and feeds on seeds of different kinds,

- kinds, which it peels before it eats, *ibid.*
 —lays four or five whitish eggs, *ibid.*—is
 easily instructed in the song of another
 bird vol. iii. 103
Linnet, greater red-headed, iii. 103—a very
 familiar chearful bird iii. 104
 ——— lesser red-headed *ibid.*
 ——— mountain, called by Briffon *La petite*
Linotte, iii. 105—is very common in some
 parts of France iii. 106
Lory, black capped, ii. 121—an inhabitant
 of the East-Indies ii. 122
 ——— scarlet ii. 122
 ——— long-tailed scarlet ii. 123

M,

- Maccaw*, blue and yellow ii. 125
 ——— great *ibid.*
 ——— Brazilian ii. 126
Magpie, ii. 64—vain, restless, loud, quarrel-
 some, and an unwelcome intruder every
 where—it will destroy young chickens,
 when separated from the hen, ii. 65—
 is frequently seen on the back of an ox or
 sheep pecking up the insects, *ibid.*—in-
 genious formation of its nest, ii. 67—
 it feeds on carrion like the raven, on grain
 like the rook, and on the eggs of birds
 like the cuckoo, ii. 66—the practice of
 cutting its tongue censured, ii. 67—it
 speaks distinctly *ibid.*

Mallard,

Mallard
 Martin,
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 Miffel-thru
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 175—it
 in its v
 holly, a
 Miffel-bird,
 of every
 Vol.

- Mallard* described iv. 54
- Martin*, a bird of the swallow tribe, iii. 56
 —where it builds, *ibid.*—it is the second
 of the swallow kind that appears among
 us *ibid.*
- Sand, iii. 56—it builds in holes in
 sand-pits iii. 57
- Black, *ibid.*—the largest of the
 swallow kind, *ibid.*—it is more on the
 wing than any other swallow, and its
 flight more rapid—it is with difficulty it
 can raise itself from the ground, iii. 58—
 it retires about the middle of August, and
 is the first of the genus that leaves us,
ibid.
- Merlin*, the smallest bird of the hawk-kind,
 and not much larger than the thrush—
 has been known to kill a partridge or a
 quail at a single pounce from above—its
 description, i. 131, 132—it was used in
 hawking, and its nest valued at twenty-
 four pence, i. 132—the pursuit of the
 lark by a couple of merlins is considered
 as excellent diversion i. 107
- Missel-thrush*—its food, ii. 175—its song is
 very fine, which it begins in the Spring,
 sitting on the summit of a high-tree, ii.
 175—it is the largest bird that has music
 in its voice, *ibid.*—it feeds on insects,
 holly, and the berries of missel-toe, *ibid.*
- Mock-bird*, American, can assume the tone
 of every animal in the forest, iii. 12—

the favourite songster of America, *ibid.*
—it allures the smaller birds with the
call of their males, by imitating their
voices

vol. iii. page 12

N.

Nightingale, iii. 16—description of its melody by Pliny—derivation of its name, iii. 17—for weeks together, if undisturbed, it will sit on the same tree, iii. 18—it is the most celebrated of the feathered tribe, for the variety, length, and sweetness of its notes, *ibid.*—its notes in captivity are less alluring—it was the favourite bird of Milton, *ibid.*—Gefner says it is the most agreeable songster in a cage, and possessed of a faculty of talking, iii. 21—its eyes are remarkably large and piercing—it visits England in the beginning of April, and leaves it in August—with us it frequents thick hedges, and low coppices, iii. 18—its note is soft, various, and interrupted—the nest is composed of straw, moss, and the leaves of trees—the nightingale lays four or five eggs, of a brown nutmeg colour, iii. 20—Gefner relates a long dialogue which passed between two nightingales at an inn in Ratisbon

Oprey, i.
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fowl—
Ostrich,
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O.

Ostrich, i. 75—frequents rivers, lakes, and the sea-shores—feeds principally on fish—it also preys on cootes and other water-fowl—its description vol. i. page 76, 77
Ostrich, i. 37—the largest of all birds—sometimes found as tall as a man on horseback—some brought into England above seven feet high—its whole appearance bears a strong resemblance to that of a camel, i. 38—its description, i. 38 to 41—it is a native of the torrid regions of Africa—its flesh proscribed in scripture as unfit to be eaten, i. 41—the Arabians assert that it never drinks—it will devour leather, glass, hair, stones, metals, or any thing that is given to it, i. 42—in its native deserts, it lives chiefly upon vegetables, and leads a social inoffensive life, i. 43—some of their eggs weigh above fifteen pounds—the season for laying depends on the climate in which the animal is bred—these birds are very prolific, and usually lay from forty to fifty eggs at a clutch—they sit on their eggs like other birds, and the male and female take this office by turns, i. 44—they are very assiduous in supplying the young with grass, and defending them
 O 2 from

from danger—in Pliny's time the caps and helmets of the soldiers were adorned with the plumes of the ostrich—the ladies of the East use them as an ornament in their dress—they are used to decorate our hearths, i. 45, 46—those feathers are the most valuable which are plucked from the animal when living—the savage nations of Africa hunt them for their flesh, which they consider as a great dainty—the eggs of the ostrich nourishing and well tasted, i. 46—manner in which the Arabians hunt it, i. 46, 47—methods of taking it—whole flocks are bred by the inhabitants of Dara and Lybia, and are tamed without much trouble—often ridden upon, and used as horses—Moore assures us he saw a man travelling upon an ostrich at Joar vol. i. page 48

—— American, also called the emu, i. 50. See *Emu*.

Ouze, Ring, iii. 13—places where it is found, iii. 14—it is eleven inches in length, and seventeen in breadth *ibid.*

—— Water, also called the water-crake, *ibid.*—frequents small brooks *ibid.*

—— Indian, iii. 15—resembles the jackdaw in shape and size *ibid.*

—— Brazilian iii. 16

—— Party-coloured *ibid.*

Owl—general mark by which birds of the owl kind are distinguished from others, i.

141
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— G

Paradise,
ii. 89

141—they do not see best in the darkest nights, as some have imagined—seasons in which they see best, i. 142—the nights when the moon shines are the times of their most successful plunder—the faculty of seeing in the night, or of being dazzled by day, is not alike in every species of these birds—instances in the white or barn owl, and in the brown owl, i. 143—their usual places of abode—they have a most hideous note, i. 144—sometimes bewildered—what they do in that situation, i. 145—aversion of small birds to the owl—how they injure and torment him in the day-time—the appearance of an owl by day-light is enough to set a whole grove into a kind of uproar, i. 146—the owl was consecrated to Minerva vol. i. page 147

- Great horned, i. 148—formation of its nest i. 149
- Lesser horned ibid.
- White, places which it inhabits, i. 151
- Little i. 153
- Brown, inhabits the woods i. 153
- Screech i. 145, 154
- Great Hudson's-Bay i. 154

P.

Paradise, bird of, ii. 88—its description,
ii. 89—it exceeds in beauty all others

of the pie kind, ii. 91—their having no feet a vulgar error, ii. 89—called God's birds in the Molucca islands, vol. ii.

page 91

—— king of the birds of ii. 89, 90

—— golden bird of ii. 90

—— pied bird of ii. 93

Paragua ii. 128

Parroquet, Lory, ii. 129—an inhabitant of the East-Indies ii. 130

—— red-breasted ibid.

—— long-tailed green ii. 131

—— golden crowned, ibid.—about the size of a black-bird, and a native of Brasil ii. 132

—— rose-headed ring ii. 132

—— little red-headed, ii. 134—also called the Guinea sparrow ibid.

—— little green and blue ii. 135

Parrot, the best known among us of any foreign bird—imitates the human voice better than any other bird—we are assured from good authority, that one of these birds was taught to repeat a whole sonnet from Petrarch, ii. 100—humorous account of a parrot belonging to king Henry VII. which fell into the Thames, at the same time crying out, *A boat, twenty pound for a boat!* ii. 101, 102—Linnaeus makes its varieties amount to forty-seven; Brisson extends his catalogue to ninety-five, ii. 102—their toes singularly contrived,

trived, ii. 103—though a common bird in Europe, the parrot will not breed here, though able to endure our winter when arrived at maturity, ii. 105—extraordinary sagacity of the large parrot called the aicurous, ii. 106, 107—large parrots lay two eggs, small ones more, ii. 108—those of the small parakeet tribe are very delicate food, ii. 109—great tormentors to the negroes, *ibid.*—white parrots are seen in Ethiopia, ii. 110—parrots abound in all the islands of the Pacific ocean, and the Indian ocean, *ibid.*—only the green parakeet, with a red neck, was known among the ancients

vol. ii. page 111

- Parrot*, white-crested *ibid.*
 — white-headed ii. 112
 — green, *ibid.*—this bird is often seen in England *ibid.*
 — green black-billed ii. 113
 — red and blue, of Aldrovandus, ii. 114
 — scarlet oriental, *ibid.*—an inhabitant of the East-Indies ii. 115
 — ash-coloured, *ibid.*—an inhabitant of Africa *ibid.*
 — red and white *ibid.*
 — blue-faced green ii. 116
 — green and red, ii. 117—a native of China, and as large as the common hen, *ibid.*
 — hawk-headed, ii. 118—an inhabitant of the East-Indies ii. 119
Parrot,

Parrot, diminutive green, ii. 119—an Ethiopian bird vol. ii. page 119

——— dusky ibid.

——— white-breasted ii. 120

——— little, of Bontius ii. 128

Partridge, ii. 34—in England, a favourite delicacy at the tables of the rich, ii. 35
—penalty for destroying a pheasant or partridge, ibid.—its description—it is found in every country, and in every climate, as well in the frozen regions as under the equator, ii. 38—it is immoderately addicted to venery, ii. 39—will live from fifteen to seventeen years, if unmolested, ii. 40—the places that partridges most delight in, are corn-fields, ii. 41—their cunning and instinct superior to the poultry of the larger kind, ii. 39

——— Hudson's-Bay, ii. 42—they are almost wholly white in winter ibid.

——— Mountain, of Jamaica ibid.

——— Mountain, of Hernandez, ii. 43

——— of Damascus ibid.

——— Red, of Aldrovandus ii. 44

Peacock—the Italians say it has the plumage of an angel, the voice of a devil, and the guts of a thief, i. 174.—India first gave us peacocks; and they are still found in vast flocks, in a wild state, in the islands of Ceylon and Java—so early as the days of Solomon, we find apes and peacocks among the articles imported in his Tharshish navies

—Ælian

Peacock
Pelican
and
iv.
skin
Penguin
great

Petrel
Petty
62—
Ital

- Ælian relates that a male and female were valued at Athens at above thirty pounds of our money, i. 175—the Greeks were so struck with the beauty of this bird, when it was first introduced among them, that every person paid a stated price for seeing it—Hortensius, the orator, was the first who served up peacocks at an entertainment at Rome—in the times of Francis I. it was a custom to serve them up to the tables of the great, not to be eaten, but only to be seen; in what manner they were served, i. 176—description of the peacock, i. 177—it is particularly fond of barley—it strips the tops of houses of tiles or thatch, lays waste the labours of the gardener, roots up his choicest seeds, and nips his favourite flowers in the bud, i. 178—description of the pea-hen, vol. i. page 180
- Peacock* of Thibet i. 179
- Pelican*, iv. 10—feeds voraciously on fishes and water-insects—its favourite residence, iv. 12—its flesh very rancid—use of the skin iv. 16
- Penguin*, Magellanic, iv. 28—dives with great rapidity—its flesh rank and fishy, iv. 29
- black-footed iv. 30
- Petrel* iv. 24
- Petty-chops*, also called the beccafigo, iii. 62—principally found in Yorkshire and Italy iii. 63
- Pheasant*,

Pheasant, next to the peacock, the most beautiful of birds, ii. 10—its description, ii. 11—it is delicate food, ii. 12—pheasants taken young into keeping, become as familiar as chickens—it is extremely difficult to rear the young ones, ii. 14—particularities concerning the rearing of them, ii. 15—there are many varieties of the pheasant; the golden pheasant of China is the most beautiful of all others, ii. 16—in its wild state the pheasant lays eighteen or twenty eggs; in a state of captivity not above ten, ii. 13—are the most easily shot of any birds, ii. 14—are not difficult in their food,

vol. ii. page 15

- Horned Indian ii. 16
- Red China ii. 17
- White China ii. 18
- Peacock ibid.
- Brasilian, ii. 19—called by the natives Jacupema ii. 20

Picui Pinima, ii. 157—the flesh of this bird is esteemed very delicate ibid.

Pie—in the class of birds of the pie kind, the pigeon is almost the only one that is useful to man, ii. 48—they live in harmony with each other—the male frequently relieves his mate in the time of incubation, ii. 49—they are rather noxious than beneficial to man, ibid.—they are faithful, and transmit an unpolluted

race

race to posterity, *ibid.*—are remarkable
for their instincts *ibid.*

Pie, Little Indian vol. ii. page 72

— of the Caribbee islands, ii. 78—a
beautiful bird, but extremely shy *ibid.*

— Indian chattering ii. 79

— African, *ibid.*—may be taught to speak
like a parrot *ibid.*

Pigeon, common, the pigeon domestique of
Brisson—the tame pigeon, and all its
beautiful varieties, derive their origin
from one species, the stock-dove; the
name implying the stock—colours of the
pigeon in a state of nature, ii. 136—vari-
ous names of domestic pigeons—the dove-
house-pigeon breeds every month, ii. 137
—lays two white eggs, which usually
produce young ones of different sexes, ii.
138—manner of hatching its eggs, *ibid.*—
method of feeding the young from the
crop, ii. 139—the pigeon of the dove-
house not so faithful as the turtle-dove—
two males are frequently seen quarreling
for the same mistress—sometimes two
males, displeased with their respective
mates, have been known to make an ex-
change, and have lived in perfect har-
mony with their new companions—the
produce of this bird is so very extraor-
dinary that near fifteen thousand pigeons
may in four years be produced from a
single pair, ii. 140—the stock-dove sel-
dom

dom breeds above twice a year—pigeons have a very piercing sight, and can hear at a vast distance, ii. 141—who may erect a pigeon-house, *ibid.*—method of erecting a pigeon-house, ii. 142, 143—pigeons do great injury at harvest on the peas, vetches, &c. ii. 145—penalty for killing pigeons by the 2 Geo. III. c. 29, ii. 147—the inhabitants of Ascalon had a sovereign respect for pigeons, and would not kill or eat them vol. ii. page 148

——— Barbary ii. 155

——— Jacobine, also called a capper, ii. 156

——— Mexican ii. 159

——— ring-tailed, of Jamaica *ibid.*

——— bald-pate, of Jamaica ii. 160

——— Greenland *ibid.*

——— Chinese *ibid.*

Pintada, or Guinea-hen, ii. 20—their habits like those of the poultry kind, ii. 21—the flesh not much esteemed, being kept here rather for shew than use *ibid.*

Pintail-Duck iv. 68

Pochard, iv. 69—these birds frequent both fresh and salt-water—they are very delicate eating—known in the London markets by the name of dun-birds iv. 70

Ptarmigan, ii. 34—live only in the Scottish Highlands, *ibid.*—their feet are covered with feathers to the claws *ibid.*

Puffin, iv. 32—its flesh very rank iv. 34

Quail

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Q.

Quail described, ii. 44—in its habits and nature resembles all others of the poultry kind, except that it is a bird of passage, ii. 45—quail-fighting was a favourite amusement among the Athenians, ii. 47.—the quail lays six or seven eggs—it is easily taken—its flesh is considered as a great delicacy vol. ii. page 47

Quarbato, or Fisher—these birds are so numerous on each side of the river Senegal, that they sometimes amount to several millions—their nests are of very curious workmanship, iv. 97—they build their nests on palm-trees, and at the extremity of the most slender branches ibid.

R.

Rain-fowl, a name given to the green wood-pecker ii. 83

Raven, found in every region of the world, ii. 50—how distinguished from the carrion-crow and rook, ibid.—sometimes found of a pure white, ii. 51—in its wild state, it is a voracious plunderer, ii. 52—may be instructed in the art of fowling like a hawk; and taught to fetch and

P

carry

carry like a spaniel—Dr. Goldsmith says he has heard a raven sing the Black Joke with great distinctness, truth and humour, ii. 51—ravens usually build in trees, and lay five or six eggs, ii. 53—Pliny's account of one that flew down into the shop of a taylor, ii. 54—the Swedes look upon ravens as sacred birds, ibid.—some have been known to live an hundred years—the raven was consecrated to Apollo, ii. 55—its description, vol. ii.

page 50

—horned Indian, or Calao ii. 60

Red-pole, or greater red-headed linnet, iii. 103—it has a pretty chattering kind of song, and is often kept in cages, iii. 109

Red-shank, spotted iii. 160

Red-start, iii. 24—it is remarkably shy, iii. 25—Gefner mentions three sorts of red-starts, iii. 26—the red-start lays four or five eggs—places where it builds its nest—it has a delicate soft note—will learn to whistle, and imitate other birds iii. 29

—Indian, iii. 26—a native of Bengal iii. 29

Red-wing, iii. 6—it is sometimes called the swine-pipe, or wind-thrush, iii. 7—the birds build their nests in hedges, and lay five or six eggs—they have a disagreeable piping note with us ibid.

Red-Sparrow, iii. 109—frequents the sides of rivers and marshy places—lays four eggs

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eggs—it is much admired for its song, and, like the nightingale, sings in the night—it delights in being among reeds, from whence it takes its name—the situation of its nest is remarkably contrived—materials of which the nest consists,

vol. iii. page 110

Ring-dove, the largest of the pigeon tribe, n. 152—in the beginning of winter, these birds assemble in the woods in great flocks ibid.

Robin Red-breast, iii. 22—manner of forming its nest, iii. 23—its song remarkably fine and soft—this bird usually lays five or six eggs iii. 22, 23

Roller, ii. 70—a very beautiful bird ibid.

Rook, ii. 57—they are sociable birds, living in vast flocks—their plan of policy, ii. 58—materials of which their nest is made—young couples building too near the mansion of an older pair, a quarrel ensues, and the old ones are always victorious ii. 59

Royston Crow, ii. 61—it is a bird of passage in Great-Britain, ibid.—lays in general four eggs ii. 62

Ruff and Reeve, iii. 172—they are reckoned a very great delicacy ibid.

Run ii. 156

S.

- Sacre*, a bird of the falcon kind, vol. i. page 110
Scaup-Duck iv. 65
Scooper, or *Avosetta*, iii. 162—feeds on worms and insects, *ibid.*—has a chirping pert note, and frequently wades in the waters, iii. 163—lays two eggs, iii. 162
Scoter, iv. 64—allowed in the Romish church to be eaten in Lent—it is a great diver, taken in nets placed under water—said to live almost constantly at sea, *ibid.*
Shakers, broad-tailed, ii. 156—it is a bird of the pigeon kind *ibid.*
Shank, Green iii. 160
Shieldrake, iv. 67—its flesh very rank and disagreeable, iv. 68—these birds frequent the sea-coasts, and breed in rabbit-holes—they lay fifteen or sixteen eggs, white and of a roundish shape—in winter they assemble in great flocks iv. 68
Showeller, or *Spoon-bill*, iii. 153—it is as over as white as snow, iii. 155—lays four or five eggs, white, powdered with a few pale spots, iii. 157—it is always seen about waters—manner in which it takes frogs iii. 157

Sifca

I N D E X.

xli

Siskin, called in Suffex the barley-bird, iii.
100—it does not breed in these islands,
but comes hither in autumn, and departs
in the spring vol. iii. page 101

Sky-lark, iii. 27—this and the wood-lark
are the only birds that sing as they
fly.—description of the sky-lark, iii. 28;
29

Snipe, iii. 169—its flesh is tender, sweet,
and delicate, iii. 170—the snipe lays
four or five eggs, of a dirty olive colour,
marked with dusky spots ibid.

— Jack, iii. 170—very difficult to be
found iii. 171

Soland-Goose iv. 21

Sparrow, iii. 87—its food—sparrows are
proverbially falacious, and consequently
very short-lived birds, iii. 88—places
where they build their nests, ibid.—fre-
quently build in the nests of the martin,
after expelling the owner iii. 88

— black iii. 89

— American, ibid.—one of these
sent here from the island of Barbadoes,
ibid.

— Good-hope ibid.

— White Lapland iii. 90

— Chinese ibid.

— little Bahama ibid.

— Mountain ibid.

— Wood iii. 91

Sparrow, Hedge, iii. 64—number and colour of its eggs vol. iii. page 65

— Reed, iii. 109—remarkable situation of its nest, iii. 110—this bird is much admired for its song, and sings in the night *ibid.*

Sparrow-hawk described, i. 129, 130—the most pernicious hawk we have in England—it makes great depredations among pigeons and partridges i. 130

Spoon-bill, or Shoveller, iii. 153—its description, iii. 154—its food, iii. 155—number of its eggs, iii. 157—it is frequent in many parts of Europe iii. 155
— of America iii. 156

Star, iii. 7. See *Starling*.

Starling, *ibid.*—places where it breeds—it lays four or five eggs, of a pale greenish ash-colour—makes its nest of straw, small fibres of roots, and moss—has a rougher voice than the rest of its kind—they assemble in vast flocks in winter, and feed upon worms and insects, iii. 8—the flesh of the starling is so remarkably bitter as to be hardly eatable—this bird is much esteemed for its aptness in imitating the human voice, and learning to whistle variety of tunes—a starling, educated under a judicious master, becomes so accomplished as to be sometimes sold for five or six guineas—they may be fed in the same manner as young black-birds—*subject*

ject to the cramp and fits, when confined in a cage, iii. 9—remedy against these complaints vol. iii. page 19

—— black and white Indian, *ibid.*—a native of Bengal iii. 11

—— yellow Indian, *ibid.*—inhabits Bengal iii. 12

Stone-chatter, iii. 74—a bird of passage—it is a restless noisy bird; and frequently perches upon some bush, chattering incessantly *ibid.*

Stork described, iii. 137—it is a bird of passage—its food, iii. 139—number of its eggs, iii. 140—the Dutch are very solicitous for the preservation of the stork in every part of their republic, iii. 141—reflections on filial piety, iii. 142—Thomson's description of the passage of the storks, iii. 139—the stork lays four eggs, iii. 140—it builds on the tops of the Dutch houses without any molestation, iii. 141

Swallow—characteristics of the swallow tribe, iii. 44—insects are their food—they have the greatest swiftness and the most extreme agility, iii. 45—three opinions concerning the manner they dispose of themselves, after they have fled from the countries in which they make their summer residence, 47 to 52—number of the swallow's eggs, iii. 54—credit has been given to the submersion of swallows by

- by some of our countrymen; and Klein strongly patronizes this doctrine, iii. 53
- Swallow*, house, or common, described, vol. iii. page 54, 55
- Chinese, iii. 58—builds an extraordinary nest, which is reckoned delicious eating in China—one of these nests dissolved in broth is thought preferable to any sauce that can be produced iii. 59
- American ibid.
- Swan*, wild, iv. 35—sometimes called the hooper, iv. 36—it has a loud and disagreeable note iv. 37
- tame, iv. 36—its food—it is one of the most silent animals, iv. 37—it is said a swan will live three hundred years—formerly much esteemed in England—places where they abound, iv. 39—singular opinion of the antients with regard to the swan, iv. 38—it was consecrated to Apollo and the muses, iv. 40
- Swift*, or black martin, iii. 57—the largest of the swallow kind—places where it breeds ibid.
- Swine-pipe*, and wind-thrush, names given to the red-wing, iii. 7. See *Red-wing*.

T.

- Tarabe* ii. 128
- Teal* described, iv. 74—its weight, length, and breadth ibid.
- Teal*

- Tial*, French vol. iv. page 79
 — Indian ibid.
 — Chinese iv. 80
Throstle, also called the song-thrush, or
 mavis—the finest of our singing birds,
 iii. 5—delivers its music from the top of
 a high tree, ibid.—lays five or six eggs,
 iii. 6
Thrush, ii. 174—colour of its eggs—ma-
 terials of which the nest is made, ii. 176
Tit-lark, iii. 32—frequents low marshy
 grounds—has a remarkable fine note,
 iii. 32
Tit-mouse, great, also called the ox-eye, iii.
 110—its food, iii. 111—it lays nine or
 ten eggs ibid.
 — blue, ibid.—a very beautiful bird,
 ibid.
 — black iii. 112
 — long-tailed, iii. 113—lays from
 twelve to sixteen eggs, iii. 114—composi-
 tion of the nest ibid.
 — marsh, ibid.—why so called, ibid.
 — Bahama ibid.
 — crested ibid.
Toucan, Red-beaked, described, ii. 73—so
 easily tamed that it will sit and hatch its
 young in houses—it is very gentle and
 inoffensive—its food, ii. 74—Pozzo bred
 one tame, ii. 75—its habits, ibid.—it
 scoops out its nest in the hollow of some
 tree, and guards the entrance with its
 great

great beak—inhabits only the warm climates of South-America, where it is much esteemed for the delicacy of its flesh, and for the beauty of its plumage, ii. 76—use of its extraordinary beak, ii. 77—the toucan has men, birds, serpents, and monkeys to guard against—the Indians pluck off the skin of the breast, which, when dry, they glue to their cheeks
vol. ii. page 76

Tringa, coot-footed iv. 77

Tumbler ii. 157

Turkey, ii. 5—unknown to the ancient naturalists—first seen in France in the reign of Francis I. and in England in that of Henry VIII. *ibid.*—in a wild state, they are found very numerous in the snowy forests of Canada—also much larger and more beautiful than in their domestic state—the savages weave the feathers into cloaks, and form them into umbrellas and fans, ii. 6—the hunting of the turkey makes one of their principal diversions—manner of the chase—the turkey-cock will fly from the most contemptible animal that will boldly face him, ii. 7—he pursues any thing that seems to fear him, particularly lap-dogs and children, then returns to his train, displays his plumage, and struts about—the female is milder—lays eighteen or twenty eggs—Norfolk turkies said to be the largest of this

this island, ii. 8—method of rearing turkies, ii. 9, 10—they are furious among themselves, but extremely weak and cowardly against other animals less powerful than themselves, ii. 7—Norfolk turkies weigh from twenty to thirty pounds—in the East-Indies, they are often seen to weigh fifty or sixty pounds, ii. 8—the flesh of a hen-turkey is sweet and delicate; but that of a turkey-cock is not so excellent, vol. ii.

page 9

Turk, Indian, ii. 158—called also cocotzin—thought delicate food *ibid.*

—— Indian, of Aldrovandus *ibid.*

Turtle-dove, described, ii. 153, 154—its fidelity is proverbial—a pair being put in a cage, if one dies, the other will not long survive it—it is a bird of passage—its food, ii. 154—they delight in open, mountainous, sandy countries—build their nests in the midst of woods—are particularly fond of millet-seed *ibid.*

Twite, or mountain linnet, iii. 105—common in some parts of France, iii. 106—called by Brisson la petite linotte, iii.

105

Vulture,

V.

Vulture, less generous and bold than the eagle—it seldom attacks living animals, when it can be supplied with the dead, i. 92—its nature is cruel, indolent, and unclean—its sense of smelling is amazingly great—countries where found—they are unknown in England—the down on the inside of their wings is converted into a very warm and comfortable kind of fur, frequently exposed to sale in the Asiatic markets, i. 93—in the neighbourhood of Grand Cairo, there are large flocks of them, which no person is permitted to destroy, as they devour all the carrion and filth there—they are attracted by carrion at a very great distance—serpents are their ordinary food, i. 95—they devour whole broods of crocodiles—the flesh of the vulture is lean, stringy, nauseous, and unfavoury, vol. i. page 96

- Golden i. 97
- Bearded i. 100
- Brasilian, also called the Mexican vulture i. 101

Vultures, King of—a native of America—larger than a turkey-cock—its description i. 98, 99

* *Water-*

Water-

173

eggs

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White-th

proach

Pigeon,

weight

Timbrel,

lew

W.

Water-hen, iii. 172—its description, iii.
 173—its food, iii. 174—colour of its
 eggs, *ibid.*—the young swim as soon as
 they are excluded the egg, *ibid.*—are
 driven away as soon as they can provide
 for themselves vol. iii. page 174

Water-rail iv. 83

Water-wagtail, white, feeds on insects and
 worms, iii. 76—passes from the north to
 the south of England in winter iii. 77
 ——— yellow, *ibid.*—makes its nest
 upon the ground among corn iii. 78
 ——— grey, *ibid.*—frequents stony
 rivers, and lives upon insects iii. 79
 ——— Jamaica *ibid.*

Wheat-ear—places where it breeds, iii. 71
 —wheat-ears are found in great plenty
 near East-Bourne in Sussex, iii. 72—it
 is thought a great delicacy, *ibid.*—it is so
 timid as to be terrified at a cloud, *ibid.*
 —taken in snares iii. 73

Whin-chat, a bird of passage *ibid.*

White-throat, iii. 75—leaves us at the ap-
 proach of winter *ibid.*

Pigeon, iv. 71—its length, breadth, and
 weight *ibid.*

Wimbrel, iii. 164—also called the lesser cur-
 lew *ibid.*

I I N D E X.

Wind-thrush, a name given to the red-wing,
vol. iii. page 7

Wood-chat i. 139

Woodcock described, iii. 164—its flesh is
esteemed a great delicacy, iii. 166—they
are unknown in North-America ibid.

Wood-lark, iii. 29—its food, and number
of eggs, iii. 31—its singing preferred by
some to the nightingale ibid.

Wood-pecker, green, feeds entirely on in-
sects, ii. 79—its description, ii. 82, 83
—stratagem which it uses to catch ants,
ii. 81—it is also called the rain-fowl;
and why, ii. 83—lays five or six eggs,
ii. 82

———— Great spotted ii. 84

———— Lesser spotted ii. 85

———— Guinea ii. 86

Wren, iii. 66—it has a fine note, which
continues only during the breeding sea-
son, iii. 67—lays from twelve to eigh-
teen eggs ibid.

———— Willow iii. 68

———— Golden-crested, the smallest of the
British birds, ibid.—its note like that of
the common wren iii. 69

———— Ruby-crowned ibid.

———— Caribbee iii. 70

Yellow-hammer

Y.

Yellow-hammer, iii. 107—makes a flat nest on the ground on the sides of banks or hedges—lays six or seven white eggs, veined with a dark purple—it is a very common species—the male, in a wild state, sings very prettily, iii. 108—the materials of the nest are moss, dried roots of grass, weeds, and horse-hair intermixed
vol. iii. page 108



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I N

NATURAL HISTORY,

Necessary to be consulted by those who are desirous of obtaining a thorough Knowledge in that Science.

AΡΙΣΤΟΤΕΛΗΣ *περὶ Ζῴων*.—Aristotle's History of Animals, in nine Books.

ΚΑΑΥΔΙΟΥ ΑΙΛΙΑΝΟΥ *περὶ Ζῴων ἰδιότητος*, Βιβλία ΙΖ.—Aelian on the Nature of Animals, in xvii Books. — He was of Præneste in Italy, and lived at Rome under Antoninus Pius.

C. Plinii Secundi Naturalis Historiæ Libri Triginta Septem.—Pliny's Natural History in xxxvii Books—The eighth treats of Quadrupeds.

Conradi Gesneri Historia Animalium Lib. I. de Quadrupedibus viviparis. Tiguri 1551. Folio.—Gesner's History of viviparous Quadrupeds; with some good figures in wood, at the end.

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—— de Quadrupedibus Solipedibus Volumen integrum. Bon. 1639. Fol.

—— Quadrupedum omnium Bifulcorum Historia. Bon. 1642. Fol.

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Synopsis methodica Animalium Quadrupedum & Serpentine generis. Auctore Joanne Raio S. R. S. Londini 1693. Oct.—Ray's Synopsis of Quadrupeds.

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DIRECTIONS

TO THE

BINDER

FOR PLACING THE

COPPER-PLATES.

- I. **T**HE dodo and the eagle, vol. i.
page 57.
- II. The ostrich and the cassowary,
vol. i. page 37.
- III. The crow and the chough, vol. ii.
page 55.
- IV. The bustard and the grouse, vol. ii.
page 22.
- V. The gyr-falcon and the peregrine-
falcon, vol. i. page 108.
- VI. The Pondicherry eagle and the
king of the vultures, vol. i. page 81.
- VII. The spotted falcon and the lan-
ner, vol. i. page 115.
- VIII. The

DIRECTIONS to the BINDER.

- VIII. The goshawk and the falcon gentle, vol. i. page 112.
- IX. The buzzard and the moor-buzzard, vol. i. page 120.
- X. The eagle-owl and the butcher-bird, vol. i. page 133.
- XI. The Jackdaw, and the great and little wood-peckers, vol. ii. page 64.
- XII. The Yellow-hammer, the swallow, the swift, and the snow-flake, vol. iii. page 44.
- XIII. The male and female goat-sucker, vol. iii. page 60.
- XIV. The Guinea fowl and the toucan, vol. ii. page 73.
- XV. The cuckoo and two birds of Paradise, vol. ii. page 94.
- XVI. The stork, vol. iii. page 137.
- XVII. The starling, the lark, the white wagtail, and the yellow wagtail, vol. iii. page 27.
- XVIII. The ring ouzel, the male black-bird, and the female black-bird, vol. iii. page 13.
- XIX. The cockatoo, the turtle, and the rock-pigeon, vol. ii. page 127.
- XX. Wood-peckers of Guinea and Brasil, vol. ii. page 86.
- XXI. The land-rail and the black roed gull, vol. iv. page 24.
- XXII.

DIRECTIONS to the BINDER.

- XXII. The curlew and the water-rail,
vol. iii. page 163.
- XXIII. The water-hen and the coot,
vol. iii. page 172.
- XXIV. Two gulls, vol. iv. page 25.
- XXV. The winter-mew, and the
black-toed female gull, vol. iv.
page 26.
- XXVI. The male and female red-
breasted goosander, vol. iv. page
62.
- XXVII. The little bittern, vol. iii.
page 153.
- XXVIII. The common heron, vol. iii.
page 144.
- XXIX. The white heron, vol. iii.
page 147.
- XXX. The egret, vol. iii. page 148.
- XXXI. The white-throated duck, the
garganey, and the little brown duck,
vol. iv. page 52.
- XXXII. The male velvet duck, the
female velvet duck, and the swallow
tailed shielduck, vol. iv. page 63.
- XXXIII. The avosetta, vol. iii. page
162.
- XXXIV. The grebe and the pelican,
vol. iii. page 175.

XXXV.

DIRECTIONS *to the* BINDER.

XXXV. The little grebe, and the eared grebe, vol. iii. page 178.

XXXVI. The little petrel and the fulmar, vol. iv. page 80.

XXXVII. The flamingo, vol. iii. page 157.

XXXVIII. The spoonbill, vol. iii. page 153.

F I N I S.



